

Peruvian to succeed Waldheim

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, a Peruvian diplomat, has been chosen by the Security Council to succeed Dr Kurt Waldheim as United Nations Secretary-General on January 1. Approval by a majority vote in the General Assembly is expected in the next few days. Señor Pérez de Cuellar, aged 61, will be the organization's first Secretary-General from Latin America. He will hold office for five years.

Alexeyeva can leave for West

Miss Lisa Alexeyeva, at the centre of Dr Andrei Sakharov's hunger strike protest, has been told by the Russian authorities she can leave for the West on Monday. They said she can also go to Gorky at once to see the Sakharovs. Page 4

Watership Down death verdict

Ulf Hirsch, aged 43, was found not guilty of the manslaughter of his wife whose half-naked body was found on Watership Down, near Echinwell, Hampshire in 1975. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for preventing her burial. Page 3

Home-loan rate cut ruled out

Any cut in mortgage rates in the near future was ruled out yesterday when building societies announced that their receipts last month slumped to £55m, the lowest for five years. They blamed the slump on the Government's drive to sell National Savings securities. Page 17

Lynda Chalker remarries

Mrs Lynda Chalker, aged 39, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, married Mr Clive Land at a private ceremony in London on Thursday. Mr Land, aged 36, is chairman of the Tory Reform Group. Mrs Chalker's marriage to Mr Eric Chalker was dissolved in 1973.

Prisoners claim to hold hostages

"Loyalist" prisoners defied freezing temperatures to continue their protest on the roof of the Crumlin Road prison, in Belfast, and claimed they were holding hostages, including four prison officers. Page 2

Use of vans in riots defended

Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday defended the tactic of using police vans driven at high speed to help disperse crowds during the riots in the city's Moss Side district in July. Page 3

Two German leaders meet

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has arrived for talks with his East German opposite number, Herr Erich Honecker, in a hunting lodge deep in the forests of Brandenburg. There are tense undercurrents for all the surface smiles. Page 4

New president

General Roberto Viola, president of Argentina, who suffered a heart attack four weeks ago, has been removed from his post by General Leopoldo Galtieri, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the leading member of the ruling junta, who is to assume the presidency himself. Page 5

BBC 'blunder'

Mr Alasdair Milne, setting out his aims as director-general of the BBC, admitted that the corporation might have "stumbled" over the £2.5m 10-part series, *The Borgias*. Page 3

Hurricane havoc

A hurricane with winds of up to 95 miles per hour has left thousands dead and at least two million homeless in the coastal regions of Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal and Orissa.

Discount tickets

British Airways, in defiance of government rules, is to sell illegally discounted air tickets over the counter from January 1. Page 2

Leader page 7

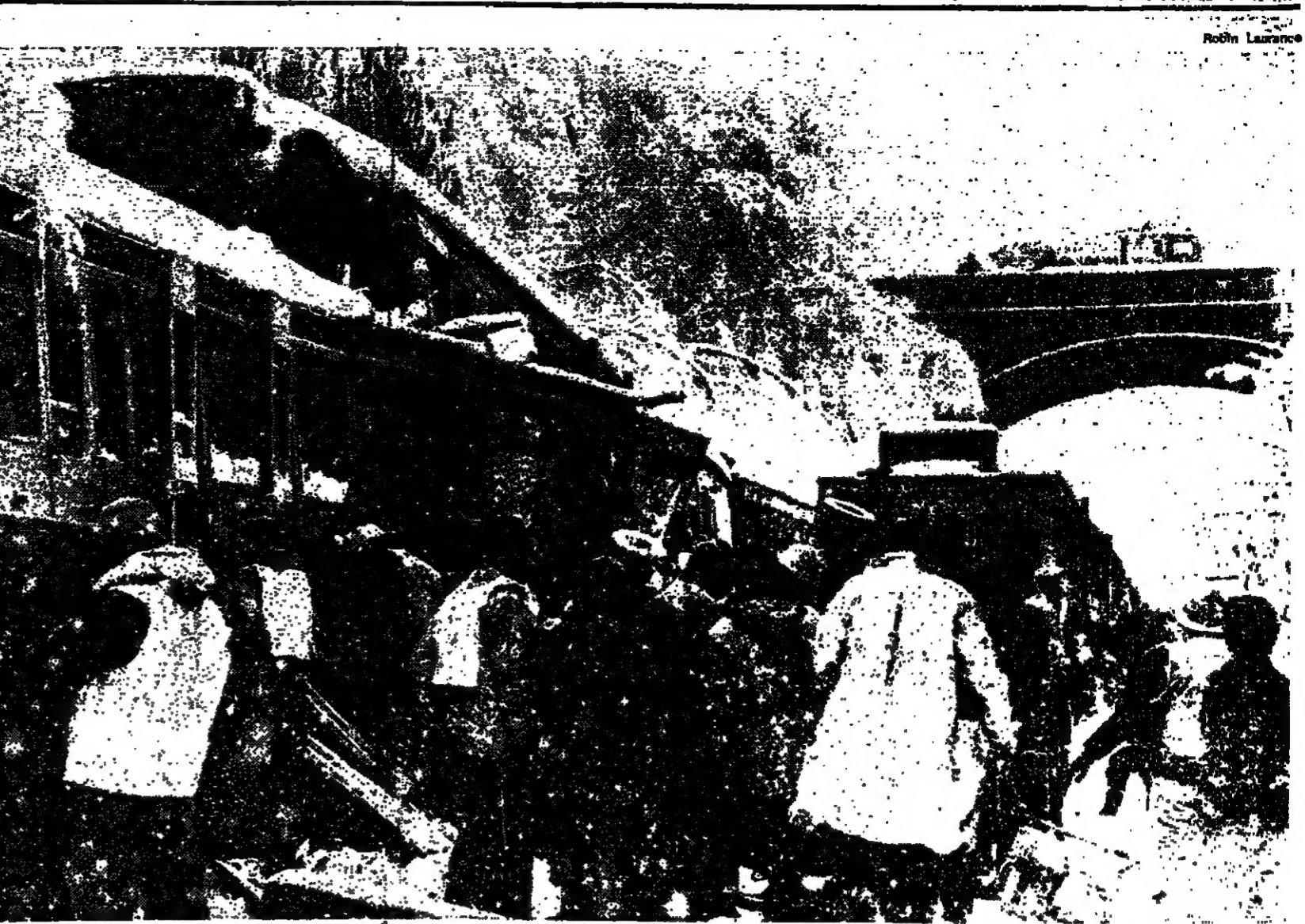
Letters: On university cuts, from Professor P. R. Ackroyd and others; police and complaints, from Mr Michael Meacher, MP; evolution, from Professor J. M. Thoday. Leading articles: The two Germanies; the weather. Features, page 6. Chapman Pincher reopens the Hollis Affair; Can positive discrimination work in Britain?

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Nightmare for travellers as snow grips Britain

By Craig Selton

The most severe pre-Christmas weather for 31 years ripped many parts of Britain yesterday. Villages were cut off, roads closed, air and rail services disrupted and some commuters took hours to get to work or gave up the attempt. Four people, including two schoolboys, died when their train crashed in heavy snow outside London. The driver of the 7.31 am Marylebone to Banbury train, and a teenage student were the other two victims of the accident. It happened when the passenger train ran into the back of an empty train apparently halted by fallen snow-laden trees. As the snow settled and hardened last night, the Meteorological Office, which reported temperatures in some places falling to -13°C on Thursday night, gave a warning that there would be no easing in the freezing conditions over the weekend. The motoring organizations, after a day of chaos on many roads in England and Wales, warned drivers not to travel by car unless they had to. Rail and air services were slowly returning to something like normal last night. During the day Heathrow, Gatwick and other airports were closed for several hours by deep snow on runways and dozens of flights were delayed, cancelled or diverted, leaving thousands of passengers stranded. Euston station in London was closed for several hours and many 'Inter-City' cross-country and commuter rail services across the country were hours late or cancelled. London Transport again reported delays on Underground services in outer London areas. Snow up to 9 in deep fell in the Midlands and central Southern England yesterday. The London Weather Centre reported most of England and Wales, south of the Thames, were covered with snow. One exception was the south coast. In many areas yesterday's falls came on top of snow and slush left from earlier snowfalls, making driving conditions ranging from dangerous to almost impossible. At midday, yesterday the RAC reported 'tales of woe, with more roads being blocked by accidents, jams or simply impassable every minute. The situation is absolutely chaotic.' Heavy snow was also thought to have been responsible for slowing the hands of Big Ben down to a snail's pace yesterday. It stopped at 12.26 pm, but in fact by 1.45 pm it was exactly an hour slow. Today's sporting programme has been badly affected. All



Hampered: Heavy snow adds to the load of rescue workers removing the dead and injured from the wreckage.

Four die in school train crash

By Frances Gibb

Four people were killed, including two 12-year-old schoolboys, when a passenger train ploughed into the back of another train standing empty in a blinding blizzard near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. The crash, in which 30 people were injured, five seriously, happened at 8.15 am in a remote, tree-flanked cutting half a mile south of Seer Green station on the Marylebone to Banbury line. The passenger train, carrying about 100 people including many schoolchildren, had left Marylebone six minutes after the empty train. Signals should have prevented its entering the same section of track as the stationary train. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, and his Board members last night offered their 'deepest sympathy to the relatives of the dead' and their 'hopes for the early recovery of those injured'. The crash, the first in which passengers had been killed since 1973, is not known, but driving snow may have been a crucial factor. It also severely hampered rescue operations and firemen and ambulances struggled for several hours to free all the victims from the wreckage.

It is thought the driver of the first train, who was heading empty, for Gerard Cross, had stopped to inform signaller of a snow-laden tree which had fallen on to one of his carriages. The passenger train, carrying about 100 people including many schoolchildren, had left Marylebone six minutes after the empty train. Signals should have prevented its entering the same section of track as the stationary train. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, and his Board members last night offered their 'deepest sympathy to the relatives of the dead' and their 'hopes for the early recovery of those injured'. The crash, the first in which passengers had been killed since 1973, is not known, but driving snow may have been a crucial factor. It also severely hampered rescue operations and firemen and ambulances struggled for several hours to free all the victims from the wreckage.

Driving snow and the inaccessible site of the crash severely hampered rescuers and it was more than three hours before all the victims were cut free from the wreckage and taken to the hospital nine miles away. Firemen, doctors and ambulancemen had to walk along the track, which is flanked on each side by steep, tree-covered banks to get to the site with cutting and medical equipment. A special service train was run from Seer Green station to bring back the dead and injured. Mr Brian Goodwin, Buckinghamshire's deputy chief fire officer, said: 'To get to the scene, we had to climb down a 120 ft embankment. The entire area is covered with six inches of snow and it was almost impossible for ambulances to reach it.' All the dead, and injured were in the first compartment of the 7.31 Marylebone to Banbury train. One of them, Mr Norman Wilks, aged 40, was trapped when the partition between the driver's cab and the first compartment collapsed on his legs. He said: 'It was a nightmare. I could hear the cries of children. They caught the full impact and were obviously in agony. But I could not even see to help them. Everything was covered in debris.' It took firemen 30 minutes to free Mr Wilks, a piano tuner, of Harrow Weald, Middlesex. Last night he was recovering in hospital with 38

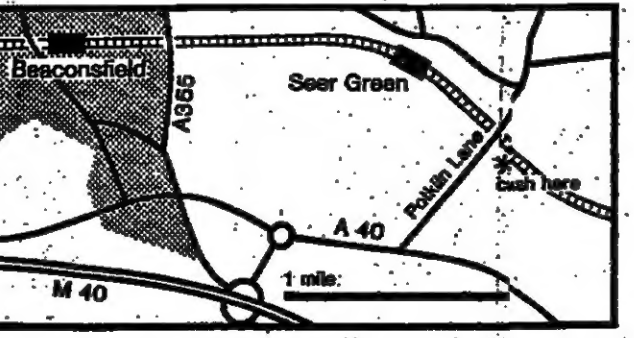
stitches to his head and face, and a broken foot. Mr Paul Alford, aged 16, an apprentice bricklayer on his way to Wycombe College when the train crashed, said: 'There was a loud bang and I looked out of the window and saw the front of the train bashed in. I saw two bodies hanging out of the wreckage and there was a little boy of about 12 or 13 lying on the bank. Everyone started screaming. We could see the driver's legs hanging out of the wreckage. Everything in sight was smashed. The train was travelling very fast.' Another of the injured Nicky hospital last night, who was 12, broke his leg, arms and ribs, was found bleeding and unconscious, hanging out of a doorway with a seat on top of his head by his brother Mark, aged 15, who was travelling in another compartment. Heavy snow continued to fall as rescue teams worked. One fireman said: 'After 22 years in the service I have never seen anything like this.' The rescue operation took more than three hours to complete. Firemen had to use cutting equipment to separate the mass of metal, seats and wires, hampered by compressed snow and mud. Ambulances also had difficulties getting up narrow country snow-bound lanes. Hundreds of stranded passengers, from the train in the

APT halted by power breakdown

By Michael Bailly

The Advanced Passenger Train ended an ignominious first week yesterday, still spluttering egg on British Rail faces. The train suffered a total power failure—locomotive, lighting, and heating—south of Preston on its way back up north and had to be towed into a siding for repairs. There were nearly a hundred people on board, straggling northward after the APT had been turned back at Crewe because the weather had closed Euston and blocked the line south of Rugby. Snow on the APT train after an 11-minute delay south of Glasgow, because of iced-up power wires, proceeded down to Crewe in fine style, arriving there 27 minutes late. The extra delay was caused by congestion on the line because of snow and ice and was not the fault of the APT, British Rail said.

The train turned back and set off north, again performing well until just south of Preston where it bowed out of its long-awaited first week in service much as it had begun it. For British Rail, who repose such hopes in APT as their Inter-City train of the future, and who delay its debut so many times to be sure of getting it right, it has been a tragic and pathetic performance.



US firms set to quit Libya

From Nicholas Hirst

Washington, Dec 11

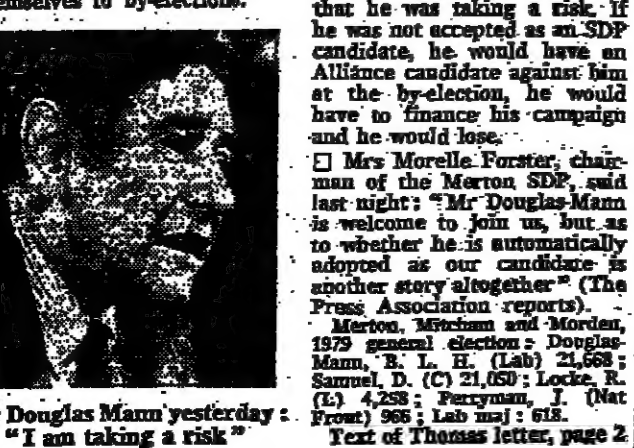
United States companies, including the multinational oil companies, are preparing to pull their American assets out of Libya today, in line with President Reagan's request. 'Our judgement of the initial reaction is that the companies are cooperating,' a White House spokesman said. The request, and the decision to invalidate passports for travel to Libya, are regarded here as the minimum the Administration could have done in the light of American allegations against Libya, which is accused of supporting international terrorism and undermining United States interests. It is also alleged that a Libyan team has been sent to assassinate President Reagan. Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said today that the next move would be up to Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. The Administration had not gone as far as to consider freezing Libyan assets in the United States. Mr Regan thought Colonel Gaddafi could ease the situation, but did not elaborate.

The main concern is the safety of Americans in Libya. The decision to pull them out was made because of the danger the Gaddafi regime posed, according to officials. The White House spokesman said the Administration hoped Colonel Gaddafi would continue to honour his word that Americans were free to leave. □ Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, told a press conference in London that the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was ready if necessary to evacuate Americans from Libya. 'It is there with a number of ships. It is ready to respond.' Gaddafi success, Page 4

Foot offensive 'too late to save party'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, after one of the most dramatic weeks of his leadership of the Labour Party, was told yesterday by the two latest defectors from his ranks in the Commons that his offensive against the hard left had come too late to save the party. But as Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, MP for Aberystwyth and a good friend of the Labour leader, became the Social Democratic Party's twenty-sixth MP, the man who seemed set to be the twenty-seventh, Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, threw the SDP into difficulties by announcing his determination to fight a by-election in his constituency of Merton, Mitcham and Morden. Mr Douglas-Mann announced yesterday that he had decided to apply to join the SDP but, against the advice of friends in the party, he intends to fight a by-election because of a change of mind over Britain's membership of the EEC. Having fought the last election as an anti-Marketeer he wants Britain to remain a member, he told a press conference at Westminster. That has put him in a different position from the other Labour MP, who has moved to the SDP without facing the need to submit himself to by-elections. He said that he hoped the SDP would accept him as a candidate, although he acknowledged that the party's policy was not to fight by-elections in the seats of defecting MPs, but if he was not permitted to do so he would fight it as an independent socialist democrat, provided the writ for a by-election was moved and accepted by the Commons. Leaders of the SDP are privately angry with Mr Douglas-Mann and regard his actions as self-indulgent. They feel that rather than forcing a by-election, he should have explained his change of mind. The party is anxious not to waste resources on what it regards as unnecessary by-elections. It feels that Mr Douglas-Mann is creating difficulties for himself. If Mr Douglas-Mann persists on the course he has adopted he would first have to go through the Merton area party's selection procedure. The party, which has what it regards as several strong possible parliamentary candidates, is reluctant to join us, but is to whether he is automatically adopted as our candidate is another story altogether' (The Press Association reports). Merton, Mitcham and Morden, 1979 general election: Douglas-Mann, E. L. H. (Lab) 21,568; Samuel, D. C. (C) 21,050; Locke, R. (L) 4,238; Perryman, J. (Nat Front) 955. Lab maj: 615. Text of Thomas letter, page 2



Mr Douglas-Mann yesterday: 'I am taking a risk'

US will take 5 years to close missile gap

By Henry Stunz, Defence Correspondent

If the Soviet Union launched a surprise attack against the United States tomorrow it could obliterate 95 per cent of American land-based strategic missiles, a high-ranking American official said yesterday. The Soviet Union leaves the United States with two for missiles to prevent the Russians from carrying out a destructive second strike if Washington retaliated, he said in an interview with *The Times*. Submarine-launched missiles like Trident, which Britain is buying to replace Polaris—had better chances of surviving, but lacked the accuracy, range and numbers necessary and the command and control of an underwater force was a source of great worry. 'The window of vulnerability'—beginning to open, and the United States would not start to close it until after 1985 when new weapons were scheduled to come into service. Like the bomber in 1965, the SS-9 of 1985, and the long-range mobile missile MX which would start coming off the production lines in 1985 itself. MX, which will have 10 warheads, is being put on the existing Minuteman missiles, and will be yet more accurate—will at first be deployed in old Titan and Minuteman sites. The United States is still studying a more permanent method of basing which would reduce its vulnerability to a Soviet strike. An airborne patrol or deep underground sites were among the possibilities, the official said. Meanwhile, the Russians were producing weapons ordered during the 1970s while the Americans were relying through Nicaragua and Cuba and originating in the Soviet Union.

That could become very serious and make it seem necessary to the United States to bring home 'our somewhat limited forces' to defend against a threat 'in our immediate backyard'. The most hopeful development would be that of an adequate ballistic missile defence (BMD) system. The superpowers allowed themselves one anti-ballistic missile system each under the terms of the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT 1) and the Russians have put one around Moscow. But the Americans abandoned their project around a Minuteman complex in North Dakota because of the expense and doubts over its effectiveness. Turning to American pre-occupations elsewhere in the world, he said that in El Salvador the United States was witnessing a Marxist-inspired guerrilla operation resupplied through Nicaragua and Cuba and originating in the Soviet Union.

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Wednesday	Johannesburg	NEW
Thursday	Johannesburg	NEW
Friday	Johannesburg	NEW
Saturday	Johannesburg	NEW
Sunday	Johannesburg	NEW
Monday	Johannesburg	NEW
Tuesday	Cape Town	NEW
Wednesday	Cape Town	NEW
Thursday	Cape Town	NEW
Friday	Cape Town	NEW
Saturday	Cape Town	NEW
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Council leaders urged to meet on 7.8% pay offer

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Association of County Councils yesterday called for an urgent meeting of local authority leaders to discuss the implications of Thursday night's pay offer of between 6.3 and 7.8 per cent to a million manual workers.

The Conservative-dominated association, which made clear its concern about the level of the probable settlement in a letter to members, asked for a special meeting of the Local Authority Conditions of Service Advisory Board.

The move came as it was learnt that the employers' offer was agreed on the casting vote of Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour chairman from South Yorkshire, after a 17-17 split on political lines.

Mr John Horrell, ACC chairman, said yesterday that the Government was already expecting spending cuts next year of 4 per cent, or £700m. Those who would be greater if the wage settlements deviated from the Government's 4 per cent overall pay targets.

The ACC is thought to be especially anxious that the settlement could be seized on by leaders of teachers and local authority white collar workers in their negotiations. The two groups together account for about a million workers.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, employers' side secretary, was quick to insist that the manual workers' offer should not be taken as a precedent for such groups, or others outside local authorities, such as hospital ancillary workers, who are nevertheless insisting the public services and therefore subject to the Government's 4 per cent target.

The employers will certainly push hard to contain those groups to lower settlements than the one for manuals, which is expected to add between 6 and 7 per cent to the wage bill.

The employers' groups for teachers and local council white collar workers, moreover, are likely to take a tougher line than their counterparts on the manual workers' joint council, since both bodies are understood to have Conservative majorities.

The fact that the teachers' and local government white collar workers' pay settlements last year did closely follow the manual workers' 7.5 per cent, compared with an overall target for last year of 6 per cent—and that union leaders have been quick to greet Thursday's probable settlement as a benchmark—clearly worried the ACC last night.

Although local authority manual workers are the biggest group of public service employees, it is the extent to which others follow it, rather than the settlement itself, which will probably determine how serious a dent it causes in the Government's public service pay policy.

Mr Rusbridge said on Thursday that the cash for the settlement would have to be raised from the rates or by cuts in jobs and services.

Employers emphasized last night that the impact of job cuts, a disproportionately high number of which have been falling on local authority manual workers, helped last year to ensure that the increase in the manual pay bill as a result of a 7.5 per

cent settlement was little more than 2 per cent.

A total of 81,578 manual jobs have gone in the last two years. The 3.4 per cent reduction last year in the manual workforce, coupled with parallel reductions in overtime and bonus earnings helped to ensure that last year's settlement cost less than a third of what was originally expected.

The Thursday deal, which still has to be ratified by union members, to whom it will be put without recommendation, yields £4.60 a week flat rate, as well as a one hour reduction from November next year.

Current basic rates, exclusive of overtime and bonuses, are as follows (with examples of jobs):

Grade A: Laboratory attendants, school crossing patrols, school cleaners and dining room assistants, £59.05.

Grade B: Car park labourers, general labourers, lavatory cleaners (mobile), public lighting attendants, school meals supervisory assistants, £60.10.

Grade C: Assistant gardeners, launderette attendants, lavatory attendants taking cash, £61.80.

Grade D: Abattoir labourer, car park attendant taking cash, general roadman, general sewerer, £65.

Grade E: Crematorium assistant, gardener, groomer, pool attendant, refuse collector, £67.50.

Grade F: Cook, crematorium attendant, skilled roadman, sewerer, £70.70.

Grade G: Cook in charge, heavy driver/plant operator, £73.50.



Prison protesters claim to have hostages

"Loyalist" prisoners on remand at the Crumlin Road prison, in Belfast, continued their protest in pursuit of a number of demands yesterday in freezing conditions. The men claimed they were holding four prison officers and 13 republican inmates as hostages.

Roads leading to the prison were sealed by troops and police, and Army marksmen were stationed in the area. About fifty prisoners were involved, and signs coming from the

prison yesterday afternoon indicated that the men had begun to break up their cells.

Mr Paisley said he felt Mr Mitchell had to give the Crumlin Road men the same facilities that had been granted to the republican hunger strikers at the Maze Prison. The protesters were demanding to be segregated from republican prisoners and, among four other requests, were seeking improved recreational facilities.

Several prominent American politicians have written to Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, objecting to the granting of a visa for the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, to visit the United States (Our Washington Correspondent writes). Mr Thomas O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Daniel Moynihan have joined several members of Congress in writing to Mr Haig.

Strike by clerks may end

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A breakthrough in negotiations over the long-running strike by the Liverpool Corporation clerical workers is expected to lead to a full resumption of work before Christmas. The 350 typists, secretaries and machine operators have been on strike for more than six months over pay and working conditions.

The strike, the longest in the corporation's history, is estimated to have cost more than £5m in lost revenue, but the corporation's other commitments which will have to be met by taxpayers. The negotiations became despatched over the city council's insistence on a new remuneration clause covering staff who have refused to back the strike.

The Ministry of Defence has run into trouble with trade unions in trying to reclaim film overpaid to manual workers in Scotland as a result of a strike by computer operators (Our Dunfermline Correspondent writes).

Because of the strike the Ministry made weekly payments to 6,000 workers at Rosyth dockyard, based on their level of earnings in the three weeks before the strike began. As a result some workers were overpaid by as much as £1,000.

Thousands of shopfloor workers at the Rolls-Royce engine plant in Bristol today defied a management attempt to close the factory for the day.

The 3,000 men, about 60 per cent of the hourly paid workforce, braved early morning blizzards to turn up for work despite being told they would not be paid. The closure every Friday is at the centre of a lengthy dispute over introduction of a shorter working week.

Dockers at Hull have accepted an 8 per cent pay and productivity offer, worth about £10 a week. The deal includes two-shift working, providing the port with a 14-hour working day finishing at 9 pm.

The traditional "dinting", whereby a man receives stand-by pay while waiting for work, will end and all 1,400 dockers go on regular wages throughout the year.

Tailor shop stewards in Coventry yesterday rejected the firm's 21 per cent pay offer and said they hoped to press for a bigger deal at meetings with management next week.

Nurses in East Anglia have voted in favour of taking industrial action in their fight for more pay. A meeting in Norwich called by the Royal College of Nursing urged them to lobby their local MPs for support in their fight to improve the Government's offer of 4 per cent. The nurses voted against taking strike action in support of the claim.

Defiant BA to offer discount tickets

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

British Airways is to go ahead with a controversial scheme to put illegally discounted air tickets on sale over the counter at regular high street travel agents despite government suggestions that the discount fares should first be filed with the Civil Aviation Authority.

The discounted tickets, to seven Far East destinations, including Tokyo and Singapore, will be closely competitive with the illegally discounted tickets that hitherto have been available mainly through discount agency outlets known as "bucket shops".

British Airways' over-the-counter supply runs to a number of agencies, but the airline has been taking at high street travel agents from next Monday.

The discount price of a return ticket to Tokyo is likely to be about £450, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

Discount cost to Singapore return through the high street agents is likely to be about £615, representing more than a 50 per cent saving on a full International Air Transport Association tariff fare. There are discounted tickets through bucket shops at about £590.

Although British Airways has discussed the scheme with the CAA, the airline has no plans to file details of the new fare structure. He believed the processes of CAA approval could be completed in time for the start of the scheme in January.

Unusually, the Labour Party has become the kind of party that Tariff All and his friends can easily be manipulated from driving because he had driven with excess alcohol in his blood. Der Chief Supt Richard Muirhead saw Mr Ian Kane, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, after an internal disciplinary inquiry and was "required to resign forthwith".

It is understood that Mr Muirhead, aged 50, of Hollow Lane, Ramsey, will not lose the

able to take that destination at about £490. But shop prices can be as low as £400.

The British Airways tickets are going to high street agents for the first time officially.

Both the airline and ASTA admit that technically the move is illegal because it is a condition of an airline's operating licence that it does not discount tickets below a level filled with the CAA, which is also agreed with foreign governments involved in the flight destinations.

Because the British Government, like those abroad, has turned a blind eye to the bucket shop trade in discounted tickets, British Airways takes the view that with a "discretionary" trial, the chance of government action is slight.

But Lord Trevelyan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said in the House of Lords on Thursday that the CAA had invited British Airways to file details of the new fare structure. He believed the processes of CAA approval could be completed in time for the start of the scheme in January.

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Prison for ex-Tory candidate

A former Conservative parliamentary candidate was sentenced yesterday to 18 months' imprisonment on drug charges. Mr Barnard, 36, of 35, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment on drug charges. Mr Barnard, 36, of 35, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment on drug charges.

He had also pleaded guilty to possessing 150g of cocaine as his first offence. He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment on drug charges. Mr Barnard, 36, of 35, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment on drug charges.

In a raid by customs officers which led to the arrests, one officer was carried away on the stretcher. A Cadillac car in which two men were trying to escape.

The trial began on November 4 at Middlesex Crown Court and ended on Wednesday when Douglas Ronald Morden, aged 36, of Napier Close, West Kensington, London, was found guilty of the charges.

Anthony William Moxley, aged 33, of Lansdowne Road, North Hill, London, the driver of the Cadillac, was found guilty by a majority of 10 to 2 of the same charges and of conspiracy to supply cocaine.

Morden was yesterday sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and Moxley to two years.

Anthony Joseph Murphy, aged 37, a company director, of Gloucester, London, was found guilty of three offences of supplying cocaine to others. He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for two years, with a fine of £300.

Sentencing Barnard, who is married with two children, of Laurel Road, Barnes, London, Judge Trevelyan said him that if the figure were right about £190,000 of the drug had been found at his home. "I am bound to pass a substantial sentence," he said.

He said that Murphy, of the Gloucester, London, was found guilty of three offences of supplying cocaine to others. He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for two years, with a fine of £300.

Two other people were acquitted of conspiracy. Morden's wife, Mrs Yolande Morden, and Mr Julian Barnard, aged 36, of Laurel Road, Barnes.

Mr Brian Leary, QC, for the prosecution, said that a customs investigation led to the arrest of the defendants and seizure of 1,863g of cocaine worth £250,000 at street level.

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Emergency wardens brought in to help

By Staff Reporters

As snowstorms swept across much of Britain yesterday Gloucestershire County Council sent to isolated areas, called out emergency snow wardens in each village to organise clearance operations.

Dozens of snowploughs were bypassed by snowploughs as the understaffed highways department concentrated on clearing main roads.

After a six overnight snowfall hundreds of Gloucestershire schools were closed, many in the Forest of Dean and Cotswold areas. All residents were told to stay at home unless their journey was essential.

The county ambulance service abandoned all non-emergency journeys.

Wales was one of the worst affected parts of Britain as between 6in and 8in of snow fell in some parts of the principality. More than 100 snowploughs and 500 men were out clearing snow in Powys. Most main roads were cleared but accidents caused delays on two key routes.

The A5 Holyhead to London road was blocked for almost an hour after an accident involving a bus and a lorry. There were long delays on a South Wales valley road into Newport when a lorry jackknifed.

Water Hospital in North Wales was cut off after snow hampered the efforts of water authority workers trying to repair a broken main.

Thousands of schoolchildren throughout North Wales were sent home early, but at many schools only about half the pupils had turned up. Only one mountain pass was still blocked later yesterday but scores of minor roads and streets were barely passable.

At Colwyn Bay staff from the Welsh Mountain Zoo shovelled 6in of snow from a playing field then cut a section of grass with a scythe. The grass was needed to feed thousands of locusts.

West Midlands commuters were spared an added difficulty when more than 4,000 bus drivers, who have been calling selected lightning strikes for

Snow chaos in the regions

By Staff Reporters

Against two weeks' decided against repeating the action of the region, which has had its coldest early December weather since 1890, and its heaviest snowfalls since 1966, had an overnight snowfall of six to seven inches and was brought almost to a halt.

The M42 between Solihull and the M6 was closed and 15 mph speed limits were imposed on the M6 and M5 where snowploughs were used to clear lanes. Thousands of cars were stranded in the snow.

Manchester missed the worst of the weather when the temperature stayed above freezing in the city centre and only just below zero on the fringes.

Devon County Council, which has 8,500 miles of roads to look after, more than any other local authority, said yesterday that half its fleet of snowploughs was out of action.

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Science report

A degree that brought a big change

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The heavy snowfall over the South and the Midlands may have served a useful purpose. For it shows the impact that a tiny change in temperature can have on the weather.

The discrepancy between the predicted and actual temperature varied only by between one and two degrees C; but that was sufficient to make the difference between a forecast of rain, sleet and some patches of snow and the thick white blanket which blanketed much of Britain.

Although this week's weather is a local phenomenon, it lends emphasis to the warnings of climatologists about what may happen on a global scale as a result of increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Since it strongly absorbs the infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, that layer of carbon dioxide provides an energy trap that should produce a warming of the atmosphere.

The main preoccupation of the scientists is with the "greenhouse effect" caused by the discharge of carbon dioxide into the air from the burning of fossil fuels.

The consequence of an accumulation of this gaseous effluent, in altering various areas for growing specific crops and in the loss of fresh water supplies to some large urban regions, is projected in a study by Professor Hermann Flohn, a distinguished German meteorologist.

Measurements from scientific satellites confirm a steady rise in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Since it strongly absorbs the infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, that layer of carbon dioxide provides an energy trap that should produce a warming of the atmosphere.

Figures published in Science by a team from the Institute of Space Studies of the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration, show that the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide have risen from 280 parts a million in 1880 to 340 parts a million in 1980. The main cause of increase is attributed to burning fossil fuels, particularly over the past 20 years.

Life on a warmer Earth, says the International Institute for Advanced Systems Analysis, Science, Vol 213, No 4511.

AN OPEN VERDICT ON DIABETIC

A jury returned an open verdict yesterday on Mr Philip Cohen, a diabetic aged 73, who according to his son, never drank, but was taken by police from a hospital casualty unit because medical staff thought he was drunk.

He was charged with drunkenness but died in a police cell.

Mr Douglas Chambers, the coroner at St Paul's, north London, said after the verdict on Mr Cohen, a retired tailor, of Glastonbury, Commercial Road, Stepney: "There should be a meaningful dialogue between the two authorities involved and when a patient is taken from a hospital to a police station there should be a statement that he is drunk and there is nothing medically wrong with him."

Dr John Taylor, a scientific officer, said he found 0.5ml per cent of alcohol in the blood. There was a varying type of alcoholism which would have meant that Mr Cohen could either have been bordering on drunkenness or comatose.

The National Front was banned yesterday by Mr Justice Tudor Evans at a private hearing from holding a weekend meeting in the London Borough of Brent. The ban is effective until 6 a.m. on Monday.

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CID chief dismissed

By Richard Ford

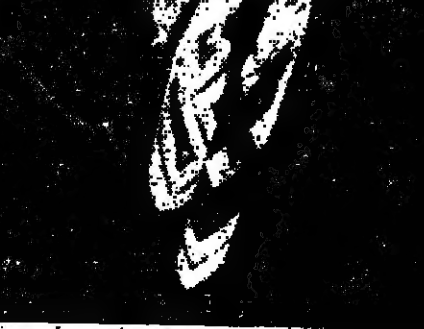
The head of Cambridgeshire CID resigned yesterday less than a month after being fined and disqualified from driving because he had driven with excess alcohol in his blood.

Der Chief Supt Richard Muirhead saw Mr Ian Kane, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, after an internal disciplinary inquiry and was "required to resign forthwith".

It is understood that Mr Muirhead, aged 50, of Hollow Lane, Ramsey, will not lose the

Lost boy safe

Robert Clarke, aged 13, who had been missing from home in Tideswell, near Burton, Derbyshire, for nine days, returned home yesterday, after a moorland search by police. He told his family he had been in London.



Returning fire: A playful Mrs Margaret Thatcher taking aim with a snowball, preparatory to throwing it at newspaper photographers during a visit to Shropshire yesterday.

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Although caring for the gravely ill, particularly those stricken by Cancer, is intensely demanding, the Sisters of Charity have responded to this special need for 75 years.

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Reverend Mother

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Toll section for M20 urged by MP

A former Conservative minister yesterday proposed a scheme to complete an unfinished motorway, using private finance. He suggested that a 17-mile section of the M20 from Maidstone to Ashford, Kent, should be completed as an experimental toll road. Our political staff writes.

Mr Keith Speed, MP for Ashford and a former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, said the response of the Department of the Environment and the Treasury to his proposal would be a test of their good faith over promises to build more roads, especially by-passes, in exchange for heavier lorries.

There was a Tory back-bench rebellion on Wednesday over the Government's plans to increase maximum lorry weights.

Mr Speed said in his constituency that the 17-mile break in one of the key routes to Folkestone and Dover was crazy. Statutory procedures had been completed, the unfinished section was of reasonable stage length, it would be heavily used and was ready for construction.

Private finance from Britain and abroad could be found to build the missing link and the tolls would provide a reasonable return. Alternatively, a Government loan could be raised which would be similarly serviced.

£40,493 damages for miner

A miner was awarded £40,493 compensation yesterday for injuries received in an underground accident seven years ago. Damages against the National Coal Board had been agreed at £60,746, but the judge ruled at Stafford High Court that the miner, Mr Richard Shuffelbottam, was one third responsible for the accident.

Mr Shuffelbottam, aged 35, of Whitwell Avenue, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire, married with three children, received fractures to his face, jaw, head and skull. He also lost his senses of taste and smell completely after the accident, at Chapterley Wharf, near Tunstall, Stoke on Trent, in November 1974.

College inquiry head named

Mr Christopher Ball, warden of Keele College, Oxford, is to chair a committee of officials set up by the Government to make recommendations on the development of polytechnics and colleges of higher education.

Mr Ball was a member of the Council of National Academic Awards until last year and chairman of its English studies panel for seven years. His appointment was announced yesterday by Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary for Higher Education, at a London conference organised by the North East London Polytechnic and The Times Higher Education Supplement.

Life of luxury on stolen £60,000

Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday that a company secretary stole more than £60,000 from his firm in Stockport in six months. John Graham Dixon, aged 45, of Poynton, Cheshire, spent the money living a life of luxury, gave a Mini to a school and bought two cars.

Yesterday Dixon, who suffers from angina, was taken ill minutes before being sentenced for theft and false accounting. He had pleaded guilty and was remanded in custody for medical and psychiatric reports.

£3m drugs haul in lorries

When customs officers at Dover broke open a fuel tank on a lorry they found three quarters of a ton of cannabis, the largest drug haul at the port, the jury at Croydon Crown Court was told yesterday.

Jeffrey Litwin, of Mare Street, Hoxney, east London, owner of a number of haulage companies based in east London, was jailed for six years for conspiring to smuggle drugs into Britain. Customs men said a similar load was found in another of his lorries in Vienna. Both lorries had been driven from Pakistan and the combined drugs haul was worth £3m at street resale prices.

Murder charge

Alan Holmes, aged 35, of Willesden Lane, Cricklewood, north-west London, was remanded in custody by Marylebone magistrates yesterday accused of murdering Mr Andrew Ellmore, aged 30, of Notting Hill, west London.

Rector keeps job

The Rev Daniel Hurley, Rector of West Walton, Norfolk, who was convicted of theft in October, is to be allowed by his bishop to keep his job.

Chief constable defends van 'charge' on mob

From John Chartres, Manchester

Mr James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday broke a long silence on operational matters concerning the Moss Side riots last July and defended both the use of vehicles in "van charges" and his "low profile" tactics on the second night of the riots.

Mr Anderton submitted to the police committee, his written comments on the report of the tribunal hearing into the riots which was conducted earlier this year by Mr Benet Hytner, QC. In them he insisted that an advance against a mob made at speed by six police vans moving three abreast was "stringently controlled" and achieved its objective.

The use of police vehicles for charges against rioters has given rise to much national concern and the Hytner report said that the driving of police vehicles into a crowd had given rise to much anxious comment.

The report added that if the use of vehicles in that way was justified it must be strictly controlled to avoid injury, and that on this occasion injury was "happily avoided".

Mr Anderton's statement yesterday said: "The fact that injury was avoided, not only on that occasion but throughout the riot, is a given rise to much anxious comment."

Referring to a second incident, on July 5, Mr Anderton said: "The riot was driven into close proximity with the crowd solely to enable officers to effect more arrests; to carry assistance to the point where it was most needed; to limit the time available for the rioters to arm and bombard police vehicles; and to reduce the possibility of youths regrouping in other streets."

"Efforts were made to disperse rioters, but these met with little response. The action of police in dispersing rioters was a tactic made inevitable because police officers were under serious threat. In the circumstances no other possible action was feasible and peaceful persuasion had failed."

Mr Anderton also answered accusations made at the Hytner tribunal that police had deliberately "let Moss Side burn". He said that only a normal patrol — of five men — was in the Moss Side area at the beginning of the second evening of disturbances, in direct response to an appeal for "low profile policing" made by community leaders earlier in the day.

The Greater Manchester police committee decided to defer discussion of Mr Anderton's comments until a special meeting which has been called for next Wednesday, to deal with both the Hytner and the Scarman reports.

A report by Mr Peter Quick, the county legal officer, yesterday said that the county will probably have to find £507,877 in settlement of claims for damages during the riots. Fifty-five claims, totalling £55,913, had been settled and £17,500 has been paid in interim settlements.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday he was wholly in favour of the new policing system proposed for Liverpool's Toxteth district. He told officers of the Merseyside Police yesterday that the plans revealed by the Chief Constable, Mr Kenneth Oxford, to have more men on the beat represented a brave new initiative.

Earlier Mr Whitelaw opened the federation's new £80,000 headquarters in Liverpool.

BBC 'stumbled' over the 'Borgias'

By Kenneth Gossling

Mr Alasdair Milne, admitting to being exhilarated at being appointed director-general of the BBC yesterday set out some of his aims when he takes over from Sir Ian Trethowan next August.

He said he was in favour of breakfast television and that a decision on it was likely in the new year. He also said it was up to the BBC to work out ways of easing the burden of the new licence fee for the pensioners.

He was at pains to dispel the impression given by some writers that he is hard to get along with. He had not believed that "the famous volatility of my temper" would be a factor in the BBC governors' minds in appointing him "because it is just not true".

Mr Milne said the BBC was still working out what the new £46 licence fee meant "because some of the plans put to the Government in our original bid for £50 will have to be delayed". The shortfall was £250m over the three-year period the licence was to run.

He said, however, that he was keen to maintain the kind of programme strategy that had been established, with the "very exciting things" that were going to happen next few years the BBC would need to be on its toes.

He said BBC television might have "stumbled" over the making of the £2.5m, 10-part series, *The Borgias*. But he added, "we do not stumble often".

Asked about staff morale, Mr Milne said the corporation had been through much financial uncertainty and industrial trouble and staff needed to feel more self-confident. "I hope to be able to help them get that way."

Of the effect of the licence fee on pensioners' budgets, Mr Milne said: "I think we and the Government have a problem over the pensioners, and some resolution over that has to occur. It is up to the BBC to think up ideas and do something about it fairly quickly."

He was also asked about local radio and admitted that he had not been convinced, until he discussed it with colleagues, that it was a fundamental part of the service. "But having been sceptical I have been convinced."

Paying tribute to the man he succeeds, Mr Milne said Sir Ian had delivered the licence fee and the charter, which was a very considerable achievement. "The financial security comes after a period of considerable anxiety," he said.

NO BOXING DAY PRISON VISITS

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department created an outcry yesterday when it confirmed that prisoners are not to be allowed to have their usual family visits on Boxing Day.

The department said strict security considerations would make it difficult for many families to get to prison on that day. Visitors on Christmas day are not allowed. But British Rail and London Transport said yesterday there was no difference in travel arrangements this year.

Mr Peter Rushworth, deputy general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "This is a POA conference decision which has been negotiated and introduced by joint agreement."

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Penal Affairs Group, said: "This deplorable decision makes a mockery of the season of good will. Thousands of wives and young children would be prevented from seeing their husbands and fathers. The decision was 'disgraceful and inhumane'."

Telex office protest

By Kenneth Gossling

A protest was sent yesterday to Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, over the decision to close on January 15 the London Telex office, the last public telex office in Britain, after financial losses last year.

It was sent in a joint letter from the Commonwealth Press Union and the Foreign Press Association. British Telecom says it cannot keep the office open at Electra House, where 10 counter staff are employed, because it made losses of £60,000.

The organizations, however, say that represents a serious impediment to the free flow of news. They are also complaining of the withdrawal from January 1983, of the International Telecommunications Union credit card facility in the United Kingdom.

Mr Frank Ware, assistant general manager of United Newspapers and chairman of the CPU's telecommunications committee, said yesterday this would affect not only overseas correspondents but also British correspondents.

The FPA and CPU say that overseas press correspondents were being obstructed by British Telecom in a number of areas. They included an increase of 30 per cent in the Commonwealth press telegram rate and the impending closure of the photo-telegram service.



Mr Brian Rix, the former actor, with his wife, Elspeth, yesterday after receiving an honorary Master of Arts degree at Hull University for his work for the mentally handicapped

Officer found guilty of dishonesty

Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Seward was found guilty yesterday at a court martial of participating in dishonest business deals while commanding a top secret signals unit in Cyprus. Seward, aged 42, now stationed at South Tidworth, Hampshire, but formerly commanding officer of the Cyprus-based 9th Signals Regiment, was found guilty of stealing £1,200 (Cyprus) belonging to the Royal Signals Yacht Club after restoring a club vessel with the aid of two men under his command and selling it privately.

He was also found guilty of signing forms authorizing the duty-free purchase of a hi-fidelity system for an officer colleague, and receiving money after improperly hiring out an Army forklift truck to civilian contractors. The court, at Bulford, Wiltshire, acquitted him of allegations that he sent his regimental sergeant-major to England to collect a microwave oven, of improperly authorizing the removal of civilians of a dilapidated Nissen hut from his camp, and of arranging the sale of a duty-free car to a Naafi civilian clerk.

Twelve more charges, of making threatening remarks and dishonesty, relating to his period of command in Cyprus, were read out. The hearing was adjourned until next Monday.

Watership Down case man cleared

A jury yesterday found Ulf Hirsch not guilty of the manslaughter of his "doll-faced" wife, Jeanette Hirsch, aged 28. But the jury decided that Hirsch, age 43, had prevented her burial. Her body was found on Watership Down, near Echinwell, Hampshire, in September, 1975.

Mr Arnold Russell Vick, defending, said at Winchester Crown Court that the verdicts reflected the medical evidence that Hirsch had been responsible for his wife's death in that he must have done something which caused it, but that her death was caused by acute cardiac arrest.

It follows that in those circumstances he panicked. He clearly was not a person trained in resuscitating a person who had collapsed and he panicked and decided to dispose of her body rather than face the possible consequences of an inquiry into what happened.

Hirsch, a German-born company director, of Orion Way, Braintree, Essex, was jailed for 12 months by Mr Justice Webster. Because he has been in custody for eight months since his arrest, the judge said he would be released "almost immediately".

The judge told Hirsch that preventing his wife's burial was a serious offence. But he accepted that Hirsch probably thought wrongly that he was seriously involved in the circumstances of his wife's death.

The body was found naked in a lonely spot used by courting couples. It was more than five years before police identified Mrs Hirsch. Her mother, Mrs Gretchen Bartelt, saw a television programme about the mystery in Hamburg and got in touch with British police, as she was concerned about her daughter's disappearance.

Hirsch denied having anything to do with his wife's death or the dumping of her body. He claimed his wife had left him.

Ulf Hirsch set up home with a Dutch woman and the couple have a child. In April a detective called to tell the director of a company of shipping agents that his wife had been identified.

Two pieces of flax, some underwear and a mother's persistence had eventually solved the mystery. Police established that the flax, which had been used to tie a blanket around the half-naked body, was made in Germany, and that the panties she was wearing were sold in that country.

They arranged for an item about the mystery to be shown on a German television programme about unsolved crimes. It was seen at the end of 1975 by Mrs Bartelt. But it was five years before she told Hamburg police that she feared the dead woman could be her daughter.

Fingerprints from the dead woman matched prints found on letters written by her to her mother and detectives went to Hirsch's home to arrest him.

There had been many theories about the woman's identity. It was suggested that she could have been a Spanish spy, killed in a secret operation; another was that she had once worked for John Lennon, the former Beatle.

During the five-year inquiry police had made a death mask and inquiry took them to the United States after suggestions that the woman could have been killed by someone at the Greenham Common air base.

Mrs Bartelt used to call her daughter "Puppe", meaning doll. It was an apt description of the petite woman with tiny ears and nose who met Ulf Hirsch at a Christmas party at her mother's home in Hamburg.

Britannia home

The royal yacht Britannia arrived back in Portsmouth yesterday after a cruise lasting four and a half months which included the royal honeymoon and the Queen's visit to Australia.



Tomorrow they make a special appearance in the Sunday Times.

In tomorrow's Review, Philip Norman looks back on the Rolling Stones' recent tour of the States.

And in true Sunday Times style, he examines the flip side as well. Love them or hate them, you'll be fascinated.

Twenty years ago, there were plenty who felt that what these boys needed most was "a good dose of PT."

These days, it still comes as a surprise to many to learn that Mick Jagger's pre-tour routine comprises squash, weight-training, seven miles' running every day and three months on the wagon. At forty or thereabouts, it seems

the old men of rock still have plenty up their sleeves.

Judging by appearances, they could roll into the Nineties with ease. Behind the scenes it may be another story.

Is the moss finally getting a grip? That's something Mick and the lads might prefer we didn't discuss.

But it's the sort of question Sunday Times readers have come to expect us to ask.

We're not about to disappoint them. After all, we've got our image to think of, too.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Guerrilla bomb kills leading Khomeini aide

An Iranian spiritual leader and close aide of Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary Islamic leader, died yesterday in a bomb attack mounted by 20 guerrillas in Shiraz, southern Iran, according to official sources there.

Ayatollah Abdolhossein Dastgheib, the spiritual leader of Shiraz, and his two bodyguards were killed when their car ran over a bomb in one of the city's main streets, the Revolutionary Guards spokesman in Shiraz told Reuters by telephone.

Ayatollah Dastgheib, aged 68, was on his way to attend Friday mosque prayers which he had been leading since the 1979 revolution.

The guards' spokesman said 20 left-wing guerrillas had exchanged gunfire with security forces in diversionary attacks shortly before the time bomb exploded. Security forces had killed one of the guerrillas and arrested 19.

Tehran radio blamed the radical People's Mujahedin organization, whose members have formed the majority of some 2,000 people executed since June when Islamic fundamentalists launched a crackdown against leftists.

The Mujahedin office in Paris issued a statement soon after the incident, hailing the assassination and describing the dead religious leader "as Khomeini's number one agent in southern Iranian provinces."

It accused the Ayatollah Khomeini's main political foe and has been living under house arrest in the holy city of Qom for the past two years.

Until yesterday's killing, the number of assassinations carried out by leftist guerrillas had been falling along with a drop in the number of executions.

Ian Smith not worried after arrest of MP

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Dec 11

The Zimbabwe Government today confirmed that as MP of the white Republican Front opposition party was detained yesterday, and was being held under emergency powers for allegedly conspiring to overthrow the government.

A statement from the Prime Minister's office said that investigations were being conducted into allegations that the MP, Mr Wally Suttard, and others had been conspiring "with other political elements."

"It is expected that court proceedings will soon be instituted," the statement went on.

The statement contained no reference to another white MP of the Republican Front, Mr Denis Walker, who was also sought when police detained Mr Suttard in Bulawayo yesterday. It appears that Mr Walker, with or without advance warning of the police swoop, left Zimbabwe for South Africa two days earlier.

Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister and leader of the RF, said tonight: "It seems most unlikely that Suttard had been up to anything of this sort, but he had to have got no complaints. I am checking into things. Asked if he feared for his own liberty he said: 'My conscience is clear. No, I am not worried.'

Violence threatens Beirut

From Robert Fick, Beirut, Dec 11

Syrian troops drove into the centre of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli this afternoon after a second day of street battles and sniping that followed the discovery of five more bodies yesterday.

A bomb explosion in the city yesterday killed 15 people, and 11 members of one family were massacred at their village home 16 miles away. This morning's victims, apparently all Palestinians, were found machine-gunned to death beside the coastal highway not far from the Syrian border.

Tripoli's revenge killings have long been a part of Lebanon's recent grisly history but the violence in the north now threatens to spill over into the capital.

No reason was given for the latest murders but it seems that the family, the Zeidans, had relatives who were members of the Christian Phalange party which had been accused by villagers in the north of Lebanon of delaying an ambulance that carried the body of a murdered leftist lawyer through east Beirut.

□ New York: The General Assembly of the United Nations today decided to convene an international conference on the question of Palestine not later than 1984. The resolution, adopted by 122 votes to 4 (Canada, Israel, Norway and the United States) with 20 abstentions, was one of six approved by the Assembly dealing with various aspects of the Palestine problem.

Israel and the United States voted against all the drafts, which were endorsed by overwhelming majorities. Preparations for the proposed conference, including recommendations concerning the size and provisional agenda, are to be made by the United Nations Palestine Rights Committee, Reuter.

Anger of French farmers erupts

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 11

The anger of French farmers over the amount of Government subsidies to agriculture in 1982 has erupted in demonstrations in different parts of the country.

They consider they have been badly let down by the Socialist Government's decision to grant them only half the total sum they had asked for, and to introduce in aid to agriculture a distinction between small farmers, who need it, and big ones who do not.

Seven people were injured this afternoon in clashes with riot police in Strasbourg, where several thousand farmers converged on the regional prefecture, piled up bales of straw in the vicinity of the building and then set fire to them. They attacked the cordon of police with rotten eggs, and the police retaliated with tear gas before charging the demonstrators.

At Metz, about 1,000 farmers paraded through the streets and bombarded the prefecture with eggs and rotten fruit. Mme Edith Cresson, the Minister of Agriculture, on an official visit to western France, was held up for half an hour by angry farmers near Parthenay. She tried to explain the Government's decision, and insisted on her determination to "defend agriculture."

In the Correz, at Tulle, 200 farmers occupied the drawing room of the prefecture and blocked it with tractors in the town north of Paris, all the main roads and accesses to the motorway were blocked with tractors. The farmers handed out leaflets to motorists which said: "We have no choice. What would you say if your wages had been falling for eight years?"

The subsidies to agriculture, announced by the Government on Tuesday, amount to 5,500 francs (about £800) per hectare. The subsidies to the French farmer, the chairman of the once all-powerful FNSEA, the national farmers' union, had demanded more than 9,000 francs and half of the subsidies were to be paid by the Credit Agricole, the farmers' cooperative bank. M. Guillaume insists this amounts to making them give out with one hand what they receive with another.

But the Socialists no longer regard the FNSEA as the privileged negotiating partner of the Government, as was the case under its conservative predecessor, and seems to be trying out a policy of divide and rule. But the result has been to unite all the farmers' organizations against the Government's policy.

□ Britain's farmers have demanded immediate EEC action to block the proposed aid programme by the French Government.

Sir Richard Butler, President of the National Farmers' Union, said he was extremely disturbed by the French move. Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, has asked for a full report on the aid package.

Mr Walker is expected to raise the subject with Mme Cresson EEC farm ministers meet in Brussels next week.

The French Government already faces action before the European Court for a similar aid package announced last year. The EEC Commission ruled that much of the aid was illegal and distorted the free trade rules of the Treaty of Rome.



All smiles: The two German leaders at Schönefeld airport.

Strain beneath the smiles at German leaders' talks

From Patricia Clough, Biesenthal am Bogensee, Dec 11

In the depths of a snow-covered Brandenburg forest, populated only by deer, beavers and fur-bearing security men, Herr Helmut Schmidt and Herr Erich Honecker tonight settled down to the first summit between East and West German leaders in 11 years.

With a clink of glasses, jovial words, but a hint of underlying strain, Herr Honecker welcomed the West German Chancellor to the Hubertusstock, a wooden chalet-style hunting lodge near the half-frozen Lake Werbellin north of Berlin, where he will be a guest for three days.

The meeting, only three weeks after President Brezhnev gave it his blessing, is being treated by East Germany as a major state event.

As the two leaders started their talks, Herr Wolfgang Meyer, the East German spokesman, said that his country attributed "great political significance to the meeting. The world, he added, expected it to be an important contribution to the East-West dialogue, peace, and détente."

East German television took the step—unprecedented for a Western visit—of transmitting live Herr Schmidt's arrival at East Berlin's bleak Schönefeld airport, and again at the Hubertusstock, some 35 miles to the north of the city.

Millions of viewers saw what

appeared to be a friendly, almost hearty scene, as Herr Schmidt, in his North German sailing cap, stepped briskly down from his white Luftwaffe aircraft to be greeted by a furbated Herr Honecker with a firm handshake, and the words: "Welcome, we greet you."

Warmly, the Chancellor replied: "I am very pleased." Television microphones picked up jovial remarks as each introduced the other to his entourage. "Not seen you for a long time," one top West German was heard to say to his East German counterpart.

"Have you anyone left in the Chancellery?" joked Herr Honecker, after shaking hands with the last official from Bonn. "Well, just a few," the Chancellor replied.

There were no national anthems—relations between the two Germanies are too sensitive and complex for such things—or military honours. On Schönefeld, two red, black and gold German flags, West Germany's plain, East Germany's with the hammer and dividers in the centre—flopped lazily as the two statesmen posed for photographers. They then boarded Herr Honecker's French Citroën car.

Their destination was the beautiful woods and lakes of Brandenburg, where the Nazi leaders Goering and Goebbels had country estates, and where

Herr Honecker and other East German leaders now like to hunt.

But the impression that the joviality was slightly forced, mounted as the official party assembled below the antlers and hunting trophies of the Hubertusstock.

By the time they sat down on a green sofa for the last photographs, they were both looking serious and slightly awkward, as if they were not quite sure what to say, and Herr Schmidt resorted to a comforting pinch of snuff.

But the two leaders have no particular reason at present for backslapping. The summit is simply another start to East-West German relations, after a period of setbacks.

The summit itself had to be put off twice because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and later because of the situation in Poland. Both will be anxious to discuss East-West relations and arms control, but there is little they can jointly do about it.

The meeting is unlikely to produce any important agreements or spectacular steps forward in improving their often difficult relations. But for Herr Schmidt—and probably also for Herr Honecker—the most important thing about the occasion is that it is happening.

Leading article, page 7

Preserved meat linked to cancer

Washington, Dec 11.—The meat preservatives, nitrites and nitrates, may indirectly cause cancer and should be used less, a United States Government report said today.

The two preservatives are used in many meats to combat bacterial poisoning, and their safety has been the subject of years of controversy.

A committee of the National Academy of Sciences reported after a year-long study that the two compounds, while not directly causing cancer in test animals, could nevertheless be converted into cancer-causing substances in food and in the body.

It recommended that nitrite be used only "to the extent that protection against botulism is not compromised."

Nitrate should be eliminated from meat because it had no proven preservative effect, but it could still be necessary in sausages.

The committee said evidence of the two compounds' potential to lead to cancer in people was still largely circumstantial, and the American Meat Institute, which represents meat packers and processors, said the report was reassuring.

□ Nitrate and nitrite are widely used as meat preservatives in Britain. Mr John Locke, director of the Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association, said none of the many reports on the possible harm they could cause was in any way conclusive.

'Sakharov' victory over Kremlin in visa case

Moscow, Dec 11.—Western diplomats here say Dr Andrei Sakharov, who won for a young relative the right to emigrate, appeared to have scored a victory over the Soviet authorities.

The exiled physicist and his wife went on hunger strike for 17 days.

Officials reversed an earlier refusal and told Mrs. Liza Alexeyeva, aged 26, that she would get travel papers on Monday allowing her to join Mr. Alexei Semenyonov, whom she married by proxy, in the town of Sakharov's wife, Yelena by a previous marriage.

Diplomats in Moscow were surprised that the Kremlin had bowed to pressure from a dissident leader, which it has always refused to do in the past.

Sakharov has effectively won a greater victory from his place of exile than ever he achieved in 12 years of campaigning for human rights in Moscow, one said.

Dr Sakharov told Mrs. Alexeyeva that he and his wife were well and "happy, beyond words" with the decision to let her leave.

The Sakharovs went on hunger strike in the town of Sakharov's wife, Yelena by a previous marriage. Dr Sakharov is exiled for his dissident activities. Mrs. Alexeyeva said she planned to go there tomorrow to see them. She said she received a coded telegram from Dr Sakharov today confirming a KGB statement that their fast ended on December 8.

Yesterday, she said she did not know whether the statement was true. But the latest message from the 60-year-old

physicist was that he and his wife were well and "happy, beyond words" with the decision to let her leave.

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Western journalists by unofficial literary circles described Mr. Kozlovsky's arrest as the first example since the mid-1960s of "crude judicial repression of a writer whose activity was none other than literary."

Mr. Kozlovsky, who is also a theatre director, was one of seven writers who applied unsuccessfully more than a year ago for official permission to set up an independent literary workshop.

Reuter.

Gaddafi eccentricity obscures Libya's economic advance

Colonel Gaddafi's eccentric foreign adventures have resulted in the latest charges and counter-charges between the United States and Libya and have helped to create for him the worst possible public image abroad, largely obscure Libya's enormous economic advance since he came to power in the 1969 coup.

Although due almost entirely to the discovery of oil in 1961 and the oil price leaps of the 1970s, rather than to any political theory, the rise in the average standard of living has been impressive by any standards.

Free schools and university education at home or abroad, care of the old, and free comprehensive medical services for all are some of the more obvious benefits in a country that was among the world's poorest in 1951. The housing programme, with promises of a home and a car for every family, has been the biggest achievement, not only in Tripoli and Benghazi but also in outlying areas. Shanty towns are expected to disappear entirely by 1985.

As in the oil-rich states of the Gulf, industrial development has been pushed ahead to form an economic base for the day the oil runs out. But large factories are turning out expensive goods that bear little relationship to market needs

or prices. Economic emphasis, however, is given to agriculture.

The fertile coastal strip, originally farmed by Italians before independence, is still being developed by foreign agencies, but massive farm projects requiring costly irrigation have sprung up far to the south, and combine harvesters are working 1,000 miles into the Western Desert, producing grain at five to six times the cost of production. The prospect of transforming Libya into an industrial power with self-sufficiency in food is remote.

In recent months cash flow has faltered, as the oil glut forced prices down and cuts in production. At the end of June output was still running at the target rate of 1.6 million barrels a day, but then dropped to less than half that, although recent reports claim that it is moving back to 900,000 bbl. There have been delays in payment for imports and some review of spending is going on, but no clear picture of the financial squeeze is yet emerging.

The decision announced last month by Exxon, the world's biggest oil company, to cease operations in Libya on economic grounds and speculation that Mobil is demanding a better deal have been political rather than economic setbacks. Many of the smaller oil com-

panies depend on Libyan production.

The gap between rich and poor has been greatly narrowed in the last decade, and Colonel Gaddafi owes much of his support to the broad mass of people at the base of the social pyramid. Few of them can be expected to understand his astonishingly sweeping credo, *The Green Book*, in which he displays fantastical conviction.

Major markets for Libyan crude oil, natural gas, liquids, and refinery feedstocks, 1981 in thousand metric tonnes.

	Total	Imports	Exports
Italy	44,410	41,985	2,425
West Germany	41,985	41,985	0
Greece	1,843	1,843	0
France	43,786	43,786	0
Turkey	5,223	5,223	0
Japan	102,517	102,517	0
U.S.A.	4,000	4,000	0
Netherlands	23,070	23,070	0
Canada	13,430	13,430	0
Switzerland	1,759	1,759	0
U.K.	23,722	23,722	0
Sweden	1,728	1,728	0
Other	1,000	1,000	0
Source: International Energy Agency, Paris.			

His idiosyncratic brand of Islamic socialism, replacing conventional forms of government by "people's committees," has been in operation for about 12 years and has resulted, particularly in the early stages, in incompetence, disorganization and massive wastage. Everyone

Solidarity urges test of support by referendum

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 11

Leaders of Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union, called today for a national referendum to determine whether Poles supported the union or the Communist Party in a series of disputes.

Members of Solidarity's National Commission meeting in Gdansk, demanded the referendum during debate on how the union should respond to mounting pressure from the authorities.

Delegates also stated that Solidarity, not the communists, had the backing of the people and told the ruling party that it must agree to genuine power-sharing if Poland is to overcome its economic, social and political crisis.

Mr Lech Walesa, the union's leader, supported the idea of now favoured more forceful measures, saying his former gradual approach had led nowhere and he now agreed with radicals who had called for swift change.

The delegates reaffirmed that the union would call a general strike if the Government tried to pass an emergency powers bill that would strip things, would outlaw strikes.

The Government is watching the two-day conference with particular concern. The Communist Party leadership believes that the future of its power share arrangement, the Front of National Understanding, depends on the result or at least the tone of the conference.

The opening speeches made by delegates and leaders have reassured the Government. The first point to emerge was that there would be no going back on the declaration made by the Solidarity leadership after last week's conference in Radom.

Apart from a threat of general strike, this called for increased access to the media, free local council elections and the implementation of radical economic reforms.

The Government claims, partly on the strength of a secret tape recording of the meeting, to have discovered a "general wish within the union leadership to destroy the talks with Solidarity and the Government. Solidarity denies this.

The second theme of the speeches was abhorrence of the Government's proposed Emergency Powers Bill. Apart from banning strikes this would allow some radical cases to be transferred from civil to military jurisdiction.

But to a large degree Solidarity's threat of a general strike should this Bill be passed is little more than rhetoric. The Sejm (parliament) is unlikely to pass it. Mr Bill. Even if it were passed it would put the Government in an impossible situation as a total ban on strikes is almost unenforceable in present-day Poland.

□ Moscow has sharpened its attacks on Solidarity, and accused it of threatening the existence of the Warsaw Government, Reuter writes.

An open attack has been launched on the electoral system existing in the country. Tass said in a commentary published in a Russian newspaper, "There were being 'crude' elections, and immediately 'broke' decisions" of the Soviet Union.

Soviet police also searched this flat and photocopied books, letters and other written material, they said.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in a labour camp followed by a period of internal exile.

A statement passed to Western journalists by unofficial literary circles described Mr. Kozlovsky's arrest as the first example since the mid-1960s of "crude judicial repression of a writer whose activity was none other than literary."

Mr. Kozlovsky, who is also a theatre director, was one of seven writers who applied unsuccessfully more than a year ago for official permission to set up an independent literary workshop.

Reuter.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

US blunt about EEC 'dumping'

Talks aimed at reducing friction over what the United States sees as EEC dumping of goods in American markets began inauspiciously in Brussels yesterday, with Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, making clear that economic considerations would increasingly dominate Atlantic relations.

Mr Haig hoped for "an elegant dialogue which avoids above all confrontation," but there were few signs that yesterday's discussions—the first at such a level between the EEC and United States—had been elegant.

On agriculture, American representatives were blunt in opposing some EEC trading practices. With air traffic halted by snow, the discussions on steel took place in a London airport lounge.

Court will hear anti-tax appeal

Copenhagen.—The Danish Supreme Court is to hear an appeal from Mr Mogens Glistrup, the politician and People's Party leader.

Mr Glistrup sought leave to appeal last month after the High Court had sentenced him to four years' jail as well as imposing penalties totalling £700,000 in costs, back taxes and fines for gross tax fraud. It also debarred him for life from his legal practice.

The Supreme Court hearing is likely to be protracted, with the final verdict coming a year from now. The Glistrup case, after seven years in various courts, is the longest-running cause célèbre in Danish legal history.

Christmas plea on Gibraltar

Madrid.—The temporary opening of the Spanish frontier with Gibraltar as a goodwill gesture for Christmas has been proposed by Spanish Socialist Richard Wigg writes.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said, however, that it was "highly unlikely" the Government would agree.

The Socialists said "purely humanitarian" reasons would justify the temporary opening to permit family reunions at Christmas, impossible since the Franco regime abruptly closed the frontier in 1969.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that technically it would be possible to permit people to cross the border but that vehicular traffic would present difficulties. "When the frontier gates open I think it will be for good," he added.

Carrington backs Canada Bill

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has dictated the Government's view that the Canada Bill, soon to be introduced in the Commons to patriate the Canadian constitution, should be passed without amendment.

This view is already being challenged by a group of MPs who support objections by Québec and Canadian Indians.

In a White Paper, Lord Carrington says that agreement by nine out of ten provinces appeared to satisfy the view that the fundamental role of Westminster is to decide whether the Canadian request conveyed the clearly expressed wishes of Canada as a whole.

Bokassa citizenship claim rejected

Paris.—A French Court has rejected a claim to French citizenship by former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Empire.

Mr Bokassa, who was overthrown in a coup in September, 1979, now lives on the Ivory Coast. His lawyers contended that he neither lost nor renounced the French citizenship he held while his country was a French colony.

Reuter.



A DELICATE MISSION

Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova will take office on January 27 as the first civilian President of Honduras for ten years. He was elected on November 29. A country doctor, he is expected to follow conservative, pro-American policies. He will have to be careful not to upset the armed forces, who will retain considerable influ-

ence over his administration. He will need an increase in American aid to deal with the economic difficulties facing Honduras, the poorest country in Central America. He will also have to handle the political complications caused by the turbulence in neighbouring Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Viola replaced in Argentina by junta rivals

From Patrick Knight, Buenos Aires, Dec 11

General Roberto Viola, the president of Argentina, who suffered a heart attack four weeks ago, has been removed from his post by General Leopoldo Galtieri, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and a leading member of the ruling junta, who has assumed the presidency himself.

The decision follows a week of intense negotiations between the two men who failed to reach an amicable solution as General Viola refused to resign.

General Viola, whose heart condition is not so severe as it was once thought to be, was eventually outmanoeuvred. General Galtieri was recently joined in the junta by Admiral Jorge Anaya, the naval commander, and in recent end-of-year promotions, he has been able to give loyal officers key posts so that all his flanks were covered. One of the most notable of these is General Cristino Nicolaidis, a hard-liner whom he appointed to the command of the Second Army in Buenos Aires.

For the time being at least, General Galtieri will not cease to be an active officer, and will combine the two positions of President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, which should give him a strength and freedom to act that General Viola conspicuously lacked during his eight months of office.

General Viola's position was also weakened by the economic crisis which has brought the exchange value of the peso to a fifth of its rate when he assumed power in March, and caused unemployment to grow, and living standards to be cut, although he had justifiably claimed that this was not his fault.

General Galtieri has the reputation of being a hard-liner, and earlier in the year

stated that ballot boxes were safely under lock and key, and would remain so. He is also considered rather hot-headed and unpredictable. Early in General Viola's presidency, after the arrest of two Argentine officers accused of spying in Chile, he took the decision to close the frontier without consulting other junta members or the President, and raised tensions between the two countries, which was already high because of the Beagle dispute.

During General Viola's illness, when General Horacio Londo, the Interior Minister, exercised the role of president, General Galtieri was apparently behind the arrest and interrogation of several Communist Party leaders.

The party, which was hostile to the previous government of Senora Isabel Peron, supported the military takeover of 1976, and has not been bothered much recently.

But General Galtieri, who has also said that he would be willing to consider sending troops to El Salvador, a policy more extreme than that of the present Government, seems to want to demonstrate that he means to be tough.

It is not certain whether the poor light in which the military are now seen, particularly because of its failure to get the economy in order, will prevent General Galtieri from acting as he might wish.

Most feel that despite the extra freedom he has now obtained, he will be forced to take Argentina further along the path towards a return to civilian rule, whether he likes it or not, and that ironically, being far more obviously a tough man than his predecessor, he might be able to achieve more than he did if he is convinced there is no option.

China lets Briton leave

Peking, Dec 11 — Miss Damaris Hocker, a British businesswoman detained in China for several weeks in connexion with a price dispute with a Chinese supplier, has returned to Hongkong. Miss Hocker, aged 36, was barred from leaving Canton on November 13 after she had refused to pay for wood used in picture frames on the grounds that it was defective.

After making several appearances at a Canton court, she reached a compromise agreement under which her company, Art Post International, a subsidiary of the Hongkong press group, South China Morning Post, was to pay a price lower than the \$15,500 (about £7,000) at first agreed. The compromise price was not disclosed. — AFP Reuters



Dip in the Rhine for Gusi, a hippopotamus from the Fischer circus who slipped attendants giving her a bath near Koblenz and went instead for a mile-long swim against the freezing, strong current. A helicopter buzzed her back to the river bank.

Nixon 'felt blacks to be inferior'

Washington, Dec 11 —

Former President Richard Nixon is accused in a new book of believing blacks are genetically inferior to whites, according to a report published in the Washington Post today.

Mr John Ehrlichman, a former presidential aide, is reported to say in the book that Mr Nixon thought that programmes such as open housing and busing simply would never do any good.

"Twice in explaining all this to me Nixon said he believed America's blacks could only marginally benefit from federal programmes because blacks were genetically inferior to whites", Mr Ehrlichman wrote. "Blacks could never achieve parity — in intelligence, economic success or social qualities".

Excerpts from galley proofs of the book obtained by the Post were published yesterday alleging that Chief Justice Warren Burger, discussed cases before the court with Mr Nixon, Mr Ehrlichman and Mr John Mitchell, the Attorney General.

Simon and Schuster, the publishers, said that the account reflected the chapter on Chief Justice Burger accurately but was unavailable for comment on the authenticity of the Post's report today. — Reuters

Nato pledges support for Third World

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 11

The Atlantic Alliance is in a substantially better posture now than it was a year ago, Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said at the end of the Nato Foreign Ministers' meeting here today.

He brushed aside the problems inside Nato over the attitude of the Greek Government and spoke of a future in which Spain would assume an important role in the defence of the West.

Mr Haig's stocktaking of the world situation formed the centrepiece of the meeting and the final communiqué echoed the American view of world affairs.

There was recognition of the European political debate about the role of nuclear weapons. But the statement reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to maintain a nuclear capability.

The statement said "unilateral nuclear disarmament would give the Soviet Union, which could not be relied upon to follow suit, an overwhelming military advantage".

The Soviet refusal to withdraw from Afghanistan was described as "a menace to the stability of the region, which endangers international peace and security and seriously impedes improvements in East-West relations".

But the communiqué draws comfort from the progress in the theatre nuclear disarmament talks, which opened in Geneva nine days ago, and the prospect of a start early next year on the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Sart). There is firm support for continuing to demand negotiations on disarmament while continuing to plan an allied nuclear build-up.

According to Mr Haig and Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, the Geneva negotiations have already progressed to the point where the two sides had managed to identify the areas to discuss.

One significant inclusion in the communiqué is a paragraph promising the Allies will take the necessary political and economic measures to support efforts by Third World nations to defend their own sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The statement adds: "Those Allies in a position to do so will be ready to take steps outside the treaty area to deter aggression".

The final communiqué did not mention the anxieties voiced during the meeting by the Greek Government about its relations with Turkey. The general impression was that the new Government had not yet had time to clarify its position.

Badinage too at arms talks

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec 11

Describing the first stages of the American-Soviet negotiations here on intermediate-range nuclear weapons as very encouraging, Dr Eugene Rostow, Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, today said the two sides "are settling down with the minimum of procedural difficulty to the substance of the problem".

"The atmosphere is good and brisk, there's basing as well as serious talk," he did not wish to create false hopes, for the sides were far apart and there were no surprise changes in attitude, but they were working seriously.

The negotiations had to be seen in conjunction with the talks on strategic intercontinental weapons due to begin in March, Mr Rostow said in an address at the American International Club.

"The reason for that is very simple and very fundamental. It is there's no such thing really as an intermediate-range nuclear missile, i.e., a missile whose range is up to 1,500 km. The long-range missiles can also be aimed at targets within Europe, within Japan, within the Middle East."

CARIBBEAN SUSPICION

Anti-Cuban crusade may backfire on US

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, Dec 11

If Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, calculated that a tough anti-communist speech in the Caribbean would help to rally nervous and poverty-stricken islands behind Washington's attempts to isolate Cuba, he must have been disappointed at the result.

His renewed warnings about Cuban interference in the region and Nicaraguan militarisation, delivered to the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States in the St. Lucian capital, Castries, last week, have so far produced more weary smiles than thunderous rounds of applause.

Washington's anti-Cuba campaign scored its biggest Caribbean success to date when Jamaica's new Conservative government broke off relations with Havana at the end of October, a move widely interpreted as the big result of American pressure.

Since then, there has been a storm of publicity about a new Caribbean Basin initiative which is now in the final stages of consideration in Washington, the latest United States programme for regional aid.

It is already bogged down by differences of opinion with the other main sponsors — Canada, Mexico and Venezuela — and with Caribbean recipients, who object to its strong preference for private sector investment over the public sector transfers which they see as the more urgent development priority.

Suspicion is now growing that the political strings dangling from it are designed to secure American strategic interests rather than solutions to the Caribbean's urgent economic problems.

This accounts for the chilly response to Mr Haig.

Dr Basil Luce, the new Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Minister who until last month headed the international relations institute of the University of the West Indies, spoke sharply at the OAS assembly in pressing Cuba, certainly not as the price for American help. The problem is economic and cannot be solved by geopolitical terms and import their tensions into it."

In Jamaica, a political scientist, Dr Carl Stone, who is a liberal and influential supporter of the Seaga Government, argues that the Reagan Administration's crusading is falling on deaf ears, because while Washington seeks the Caribbean islands' support for the isolation of Cuba "it does not wish to pay the price of increasing aid flows".

Dr Stone argues that Reagan's decision to make Jamaica a test case — a demonstration of the benefits of American support and a cornerstone of the strategy against Cuba — could backfire. "More and more, even the countries which are hostile to Cuba and who share Mr Seaga's fear of communism are likely to view the Jamaican government as a United States satellite or lackey whose relationship with the big neighbour up north must not be fully trusted."

One Caribbean official at the assembly asks sharply: "What do we have to do, elect a Manley or a Fidel Castro and then throw him out in order to get help?"

The odd thing is that Mr Haig is already preaching to the converted. Except for revolutionary Grenada, where Cuban influence is strong, there is little enthusiasm in the region for Cuba.

But the Commonwealth Caribbean states are nevertheless very sensitive to ideological interference and encroachments on sovereignty. When the United States tried to sabotage Grenada's attempts to raise EEC funds for its new international airport this year, it won little support in the region in spite of widespread distaste for the Grenadian revolution.

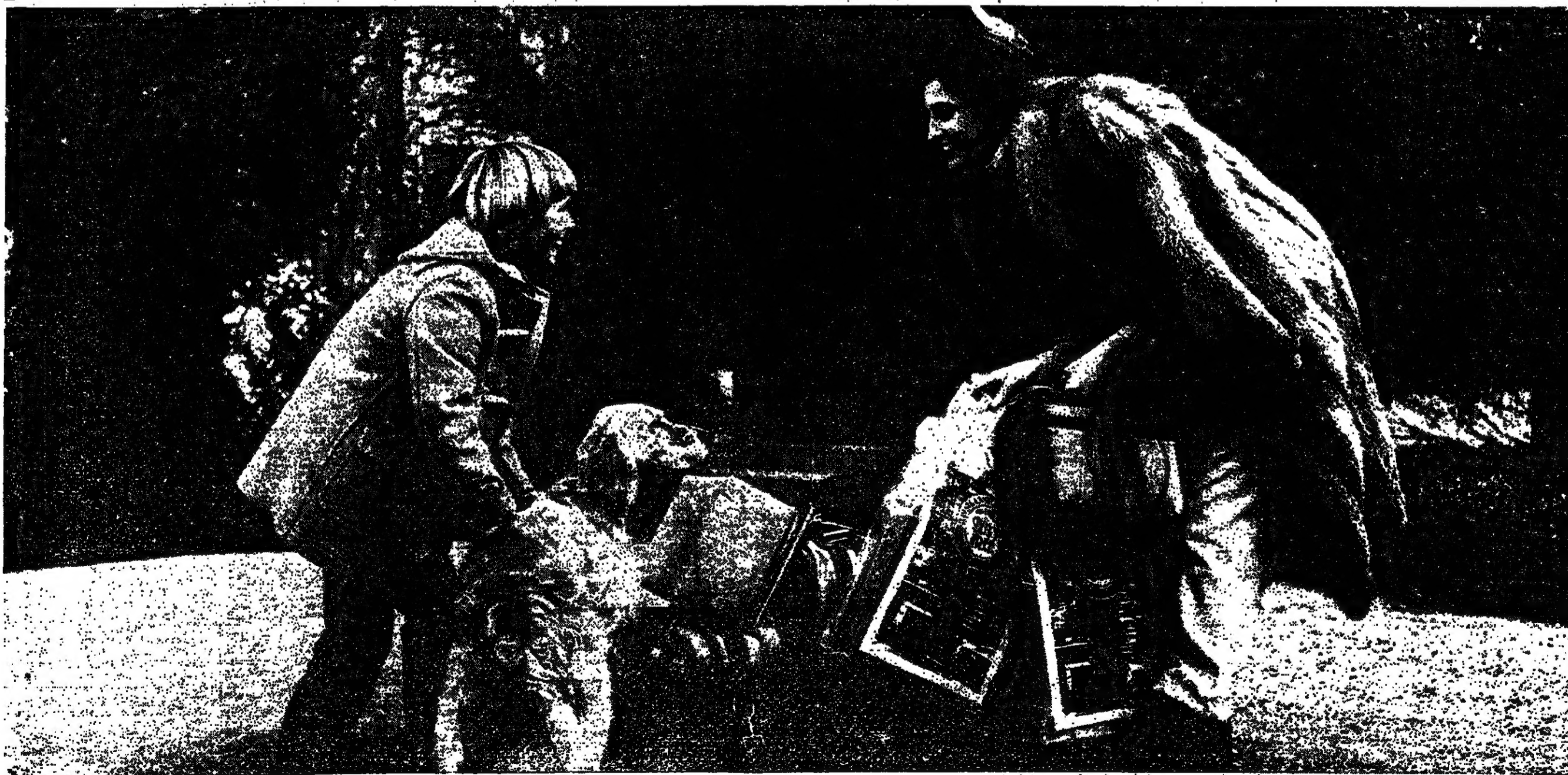
The message that the Caribbean is trying to get across to Mr Haig is simple: Ideology is not the problem. The region is not interested in pressuring Cuba, certainly not as the price for American help. The problem is economic and cannot be solved by geopolitical terms and import their tensions into it."

Opium war in Burma

From Our Correspondent, Bangkok, Dec 11

More than 300 hill tribe Burmese have fled into Thailand to escape border fighting between opium smugglers, in which at least 30 people have been killed in the past week.

A senior government official at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand said today that fighting was continuing but had not yet spread to Thai territory. Border patrol police were on alert at the frontiers and would push back the combatants



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TWO CARPS IN A POND OF PIKE

Whenever the two Germanies get together there are people who feel twinges of alarm. Are the two German states going to start tugging themselves free of their respective alliances in order to move surreptitiously towards German unity? Alternatively, is West Germany being sucked into a special relationship with Moscow's satellite that will weaken its commitment to the western alliance and render it gradually into a suitable case for blackmail?

At the moment both fears are totally unjustified because both Germanies are loyal to their alliances. East Germany is utterly dependent on Soviet armed forces for its existence and closely tied into the Soviet economy, on which it depends for energy, raw materials and export markets. West Germany has more freedom of manoeuvre but also depends on its alliance for its own security and that of West Berlin. It is wholly committed to the political and economic communities of the west. There is no significant political force in West Germany that would favour detachment.

The immediate importance of this weekend's meeting between Herr Schmidt and Herr Honecker must therefore be sought elsewhere. It lies in the intimate complexity of the relationship between the states, and the role which this relationship plays in the affairs of the two alliances. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, and relations between the super powers deteriorated sharply, a planned meeting between Herr Honecker and Herr Schmidt was called off. But the two men were able to reach an amicable agreement on the terms of the announcement in a telephone conversation. After that, although they did not meet, they found themselves pushed closer together by the antagonism of the super powers. Admittedly Herr Honecker then made life difficult for West Germans by quite

inexcusably raising the amount of money they have to exchange when visiting East Germany, and by reneging the demand that West Germany recognize a separate East German citizenship, but underlying this there remained a strong common desire to keep the relationship in being.

Each side has very specific reasons for doing this. East Germany badly needs West German credits and trade. Its economy is coming under increasing strain. Its standard of living has almost ceased improving, and its terms of trade are deteriorating. The cost of Soviet oil imports to East Germany is now ten times what it was in 1970, although the quantity has only doubled. The Polish events have not helped either. In addition, East Germany needs the political goodwill of the West German government because of the extent to which its population is exposed to the West German media. A severe deterioration of relations with Bonn would immediately affect the climate within East Germany.

On the West German side there is also a substantial (though proportionately much smaller) stake in east-west trade. But the main factor is the political obligation to keep open contacts with the people of East Germany, and to avoid anything which might make life more difficult for West Berlin. Behind this lies a constitutional obligation to strive for German unity and a general awareness that any government of West Germany must keep the management of the German question in its hands in order to prevent its being seized and exploited by other groups or parties.

One result of this mutual interest in preserving some of the gains of détente through the post-Afghanistan freeze was to provoke suspicion and resentment in Washington, where West Germany was seen as not pulling its weight, or even as undermining western

efforts to impose sanctions on the Soviet block. There was justification for feeling that West Germany might have taken Afghanistan more seriously, but there was also a failure to see the complexities of the German dilemma, and the extent to which the Ostpolitik of West Germany can be an asset to the western alliance.

Throughout the fifties and into the sixties the refusal of West Germany to come to terms with the post-war frontiers and the existence of East Germany froze its own diplomacy into impotence and gave the Soviet block Union a useful enemy against which to hold its alliance together. As soon as the eastern treaties were signed the situation became more fluid, and German influence could be deployed in eastern Europe to the general benefit of the peoples of the area and the interests of the West.

This fluidity now opens up long-term issues. The German question has not been settled. No peace treaty has been signed since the Second World War, the present division is still regarded as provisional. Neither side has seen its own solution prevail. East German leaders still pay lip service to the idea of a united socialist Germany, while the West Germans are still pledged to free elections throughout Germany in the justified conviction that democracy would win.

Yet in fact neither expects any movement in the future, and each is struggling with mounting problems which induce a more humble attitude towards ideological solutions than was visible in the past. This is another factor making for closeness, as ideological competition gives way to pragmatic cooperation. Where it will lead is impossible to say, but for the moment the relationship is more an asset than a liability to the preservation of peace in Europe.

AND WE SHALL HAVE SNOW

We may leave it to the economists to compute how much the snow fall is costing the country. It will be a comfortable indoor occupation for them, working it out at the fireside with their pocket calculators. Except in Scottish skiing resorts, which seem to be the only part of Britain where it is not snowing, snow is almost a pure loss on the balance sheet, what with delays for staff and merchandise, damage and cost of clearing. A national price to be put on the inevitable broken bones and even death: it is not likely that the workers rescuing casualties in the Buckinghamshire rail crash yesterday looked upon the snowdrifts with any sentimental feeling.

But everyday terms, the most difficult problem presented by a fall of snow is not economic but social. There is nothing like it for exercising the sympathetic antennae. It is essential, as one crumples over the fresh powder, to divine in good time which of the two mutually exclusive positions on the subject will be taken by each person one meets. As far as snow is concerned, there is no middle ground, no Social Democratic stance. Either it is an inspiring challenge, or it is an infuriating shovelling exercise. The Drunkard spirit, or it is the worst thing that happened since the drains blocked.

It is unseasonably cruel to pour cold water on views of the former sort, but still more unkind to buttonhole a shivering friend cast into dejection by the evil trick of the weather, and detain him with rhapsodies about the scenery. But it is not always easy to tell which category everyone belongs to.

It is easy to guess the feelings of those shuffling over the icy patches with a red nose and permeable shoes and of those striding along as if on the last lap to the summit of Everest, visibly thanking God for having matched them with this hour of insistent to perform. Like jumping out of delayed trains, and paralysing half of Southern Region by tramping along beside the live rail. But there are many ambiguous cases.

As a crude rule of thumb, those under 30 tend to rejoice and those over 30 to reprove. As an extreme instance, the hour God matched many children to on the first morning of the snow was well before sunrise, when they discovered the snow and after which nobody in the neighbourhood got much sleep. Perhaps by breakfast time the satisfaction all challenges presented by the crisis of sledding, snowballing, and snowman building, and were

ready to go off and drowse the day away at school, their part in the national emergency accomplished.

But exceptions even to this rule are easy to find: the same morning a man of advanced years was seen stripped to the waist in a City park, doing physical jerks in the sunshine. A grizzled eccentric on Hampstead Heath yesterday patiently waited in steady snowfall for a model three-masted ship, picking its way between ice floes across the pond. The proverbial octogenarians who break the ice to swim on Christmas day were not to be seen. But no doubt they were up on Parliament Hill, building igloos.

Those living north of Watford may smile when Londoners make such a to-do about something that is an everyday irritation to them for much of the year. It would be frivolous to enjoy the transformation that snow works on the City without a thought for the mischief it brings. But it may be a decade before Londoners see such a fall again, the right constituency to outline the tree branches for days on end, and make all the Christmas decorations with ingenuous white scarves and hats with sunshine too to show the effect off to best advantage. It would be ungrateful not to enjoy it before it turns to slush.

preserving the three named schools? Even those schools will only retain their present strength in five or 10 years' time if their closure is kept at its present level, involving throwing all the weight of contraction on the other schools. The problem of too many smaller schools with small sixth forms can be reduced by cooperative arrangements between schools. But as the DES cautiously warned in 1979, "an important question is always how far cooperation between autonomous institutions, however willingly or diligently pursued by all parties, can ensure that the education offered to individuals will be fully satisfactory."

One would have hoped that Sir Keith would have had regard to the educational disadvantages of very small sixth forms, the economic penalty of tiny teaching groups involving the extravagantly low pupil/teacher ratios, and the expressed preference of students themselves, as shown in the NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) study (1979) for separate post-16 provision.

One cannot help wondering whether Sir Keith has yielded to the special pleading of the few to the disadvantage, in years to come, of the many.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC BRIAULT,
Education Development Building,
University of Sussex,
Falmer,
Brighton,
Sussex.

Days off sick

From Mr Richard Worsley
Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent reported (December 10), that agreement had been reached between the Government, doctors and both sides of industry on a scheme of self-certification for absence from work due to sickness.

This is not so. The CBI has been in discussion with the Department of Health and Social Security, the British Medical Association, and the Trades Union Congress on how such arrangements might operate, both under the present National Insurance scheme and particularly under the Employer's Statutory Sick Pay Scheme, which is due to come into operation in April 1983.

No agreement has yet been reached and these discussions are continuing. We have consulted CBI members and have met mixed views on the issue of self-certification. Some fear that it could lead to greater absenteeism; others, including a number who already operate a system of self-certification, believe that it could improve the employer's control of sickness absence.

Much will depend on the control procedures for its operation, and these are still under discussion.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WORSLEY,
Confederation of British Industry,
105 New Oxford Street, W.C1.

Sixth-form strategy

From Professor Eric Briault
Sir, Sir Keith Joseph's rejection of Manchester's plans for sixth-form colleges and 11-16 schools, reported on November 14, is a disappointing decision. The Department of Education and Science funded research project on falling rolls in secondary schools, which I directed, showed clearly the problems of maintaining a sixth-form curriculum in a contracting school. Moreover, the largest age groups are now entering the sixth form and the 17-plus age groups will be smaller in every successive year till the middle 1990s.

The fall in rolls in Manchester and other similar areas such as Liverpool and inner London will be much above the national average of 30 per cent. I remain in favour of the 11-18 school as I was when Education Officer in the Inner London Education Authority, provided it is large enough to offer the sixth-form students the curricular opportunities which they deserve in social and educational peer groups of adequate size.

In the circumstances of Manchester as you describe them it is clear that this would obviously be only a partial solution, as secondary schools were drastically reduced, involving closures which would no doubt be as strongly opposed as the present plans have been. Why must the future sixth formers in schools suffer for the sake of

Treating complaints Lack of consultation on university cut against police

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)

Sir, The Police Federation are making a big mistake if they try to backtrack, as their chairman Mr Jim Jardine is now indicating (report, December 10), from their clear commitment a month ago to take the investigation of complaints against the police out of police hands and "hand it over lock, stock and barrel to a new body".

The grounds for doing this have not altered. It is wrong that a complaint against a policeman should be dealt with by another policeman. It is wrong that the policeman's report, when completed, should be kept secret from the complainant who then has no idea of its accuracy or soundness and has no chance to refute any counter-allegations which the policeman complained against may have made against him. And it is wrong that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should decide, as he does at present, whether or not to prosecute the policeman concerned solely on the basis of the secret written police report, without any direct interviewing of either the complainant or the policeman involved.

It is breathtaking that Mr Jardine can now say: "I don't think you can get anybody more independent than the DPP". Can he really believe this when the DPP prosecutes only 1.3 per cent on average of the 2,500-3,000 policemen complained against each year on grounds of assault? Does he really think it justified that in not one of the 60 serious assault cases sent to me from all over the country in the last two years, and which I have submitted as a dossier to the Home Office, did the DPP take proceedings against any of the policemen concerned?

The Police Federation have already tried to block the effectiveness of a switch to an independent investigator by demanding that procedures be normalised to the fullest extent. For they have insisted that policemen should have all the suspects' rights they have so roundly opposed for others in the past, notably protection of the Judges' Rules during questioning, including the right to have a lawyer present, and a right of appeal to the Crown Court. Surely this is enough protection, if not too much, in accepting a reform without which the complaints system will utterly lose all credibility?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons,
December 10.

A princess's privacy

From Mr C. D. Gibson

Sir, In your rather sanctimonious leading article, "The captive princess" (December 9), you criticise other newspapers for publishing photographs of the Princess of Wales on the grounds that "one represented an 'immoral intrusion' into her private life and that the other showed a lack of consideration towards her which might lead to her feeling a 'sense of harassment'".

Whether or not one agrees with the arguments advanced in your leader, they might perhaps carry a little more weight, and would certainly be more persuasive, if you did not choose to publish in the same edition of the paper the very photographs at which you take umbrage.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. GIBSON,
3 Hayes Barton,
Pyrford,
West,
Surrey,
December 9.

Attorneys General

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, May I trespass on your columns to make a public apology? In reply to a parliamentary question (December 10) in the House of Lords by a curious lapse of the tongue, though not of memory, I managed to refer to my father as Attorney General at the time of the case.

Sir Patrick Hastings was, of course, the Attorney General. My father, in the interval between his two terms of office as Attorney General, was his principal critic.

Yours, etc.,
HAILSHAM,
House of Lords,
December 11.

Preserving film

From Dr R. E. D. Clark

Sir, David Robinson (article, November 18), Richard Relf (letter, November 24) and Mr P. C. Gee (letter, December 8) all rightly bemoan the loss of nitrate film at the National Film Archive. But although David Robinson mentions the additional risk occasioned by hot days, no mention has been made of the possibility of preservation by cooling.

The rate of chemical change is vastly reduced by even a moderate fall in temperature and it would seem that refrigeration, or possible removal to a colder climate, might be desirable until such time as copies can be made on "non-flam" film.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT E. D. CLARK,
29 Almond Grove,
Cambridge,
December 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Professor P. R. Ackroyd and

Sir, We are senior university teachers who serve, or have lately served, in the Studentship Selection Committee of the Department of Education and Science. This committee chooses suitable candidates for three-year and one-year postgraduate research awards in the humanities (geography, history, archaeology, philosophy, theology, law, art, architecture and music) in universities and other institutions of higher education throughout England and Wales.

The committee was informed last June that for the academic year 1981-82 the number of these awards was to be reduced by about 25 per cent. With the selection process now complete, the annual number of new awards has indeed fallen from an average of 1,175 in 1978-81 to a total of 884 for 1981-82: the number of three-year "major" studentships has declined from an average of 716 in 1978-81 to 536, and the number of one-year "state" studentships (for master's to 348.

We feel that so large a reduction in state support for research in the humanities ought not to have been implemented without some opportunity for open and informed discussion. We have learned, at a recent meeting, that no official announcement of this major change of policy was made. We were concerned at the serious threat which such a cut will undoubtedly pose to the recruitment for many valuable one-year master's courses. At the doctoral level, the cumulative effect of the cut, taken over three years, will

Academics' freehold

From Professor P. Banks

Sir, Far from being the anachronism suggested in your leader (December 1) academic tenure may yet prove to be the only protection universities have against Government policies which jeopardise their future in the face of doubtful budgetary savings.

Were it not for the cost inherent in breaking contracts with tenure there now would be little possibility of persuading the Government to stand by two years the period in which expenditure cuts have to be implemented and of thereby softening their impact. Therefore to surrender tenure as part of the package to secure that extra period of grace, as you suggest, would be for universities to lose their only effective buffer against the too rapid implementation of any future policies which could similarly inflict long-lasting injuries.

The universities exist to pre-

serve our past culture and to lay the foundations of our future wealth and civilization by teaching and research. Academic tenure ensures that these essential, and often long-term, objectives are not continually at risk from short-term expediency.

More than ever before, the future of the nation depends upon its universities: if they do not remain vigorous centres of innovation and train a greater proportion of our young people than at present, the United Kingdom will rapidly become a post-industrial desert.

It is quite absurd for you to blur that fundamental fact by anecdotal reference to idle, drowsy coasting to retirement on their tenures, whilst you fail to recognise that, perhaps unexpectedly, tenure may protect the institution as well as the individual.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BANKS,
Department of Biochemistry,
The University of Sheffield,
December 2.

Jesus Christ. If it does what it believes to be right in that faith, in may be able to provide an inspiring example to the other great Churches of the Western and Eastern traditions.

Much of the opposition to the covenanting surely stems from the undue deference paid to the ancient traditions of Christendom. It betrays a sad lack of confidence in the role which the Church of England can play, together with other Churches in this country, in the creation of the coming great Church. This must indeed ultimately embrace the present great Churches in East and West, but it is not necessarily our vocation to wait for others to act.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR S. M. WILLIAMS,
Trinity College, Oxford.

Church unity

From the Chaplain of Trinity College, Oxford

Sir, The great Church based on Roman Catholicism, which Bishops John Moorman and Edward Knapp-Fisher envisage in their letter today (December 5), may be coming, but there is very little likelihood of its concrete realization for many years yet. Their advice to stand by two years the period in which expenditure cuts have to be implemented and of thereby softening their impact. Therefore to surrender tenure as part of the package to secure that extra period of grace, as you suggest, would be for universities to lose their only effective buffer against the too rapid implementation of any future policies which could similarly inflict long-lasting injuries.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR S. M. WILLIAMS,
Trinity College, Oxford.

From the Right Reverend F. H. West

Sir, We are always being told by certain Anglicans that, if the covenant scheme between the Church of England and some of the free churches were brought to a successful conclusion, relations between Rome and Canterbury would deteriorate. This dire warning seems to come exclusively from Anglicans who, for their own reasons, dislike the Covenant idea. Rome remains silent on the matter.

It would assist all ecumenical gestures everywhere if Cardinal Hume, or a spokesman deputized by him, would put us out of our uncertainties by telling us authoritatively if there is any basis for the fears expressed by Bishops Moorman and Knapp-Fisher in their letter today (December 5).

Yours, etc.,
FRANK WEST,
11 Castle Street,
Aldbourne, Wiltshire.

Conserving woodlands

From Mrs Georgina Clayton

Sir, I was interested to read Mr George Marten's letter today (December 4) in which he states the economic difficulties facing owners today in the upkeep of hardwood woodlands.

The tourist of France, Germany and Switzerland cannot help noticing how proportionately greater areas of their countries are covered by deciduous forests than in this country. Some of these (parishes) own their own woods and these are managed on behalf of the inhabitants to produce wood for burning.

The wood stacked beside the houses is of smaller diameter than the split logs more usual here. Possibly the old coppicing method is used, which by using natural regrowth saves expensive replanting.

Now in this country, when so many people have wood stoves, but the supply of wood is beginning to run out in some areas, would this not be the moment to take a lesson from our

Scientific tests for Darwinism

From Professor J. M. Thoday, FRS

Sir, Contemporary discussions about evolution often confuse a number of issues. They would be clearer if the protagonists said precisely which of the following they refer to when discussing "Darwinism":

1. The theory of evolution proper, which states that the diversity of living forms arose through modification by descent, most if not all forms having originated from common ancestors. This was the theory that Darwin established.
2. The theory that evolution is directed, by natural selection.
3. This was the mechanism of evolution Darwin (and Wallace) proposed. The theory of evolution proper does not stand or fall on the truth or adequacy of its explicitness in terms of natural selection.

It is to this theory that an argument quite commonly made, especially by physical scientists, that it is quite improbable that natural selection of "chance" mutations could have produced what has been produced, refers.

The argument is weak. It ignores the fact that organisms would be dead if they were not organized so that the factors that they are organised can provide no evidence about their origins. It does not take into account biological numbers (the number of possible combinations of the basic elements of the genetic material) which are far larger than astronomical numbers, or that the peculiar property of life is that it can multiply its novelties. It also involves the assumption that evolution had to produce what has been produced, rather than any of an indefinite number of other possible worlds. This assumption is anthropocentric, if not egocentric.

3. The question whether evolution has proceeded at a uniform slow rate, or whether there have been periods of rapid evolution and periods relatively static. Neither the first nor second theories depends on whether this is true or not. That there might be periods of rapid evolution is no new suggestion, and it is not a necessity of the theory of evolution by natural selection that it should produce change at constant rates. Nor is there any requirement that mutation rates be constant.

4. The question whether the formation of new species depends on the same mechanisms as led different populations of a single species to diverge into different races. Again, the theory of evolution proper does not stand or fall on the answer.

The theory of evolution proper provides a consistent explanation of the common properties of organisms based on a vast body of data from systematics, plant and animal geography, comparative anatomy, embryology, behaviour studies, physiology, biochemistry, cytology and genetics as well as fossil evidence. It is a falsifiable theory, as Professors Falconer and Robertson clearly show in their letter today (December 9). It also provides a more consistent explanation of the facts than do the two quite different accounts of the creation in the Bible.

It obfuscates the issue if modifications to our theories of the mechanisms of evolution are discussed as if they had a bearing on the evidence that evolution has occurred. No, it is our explanations of the mechanisms of evolution are perfect: otherwise why should we continue research? But it should not be supposed that changes or improvements in these explanations affect the truth of the theory of evolution proper.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. THODAY,
University of Cambridge:
Department of Genetics,
Downing Street,
Cambridge,
December 9.

Far from clear

From Mr Robert Gresham Gray

Sir, The battering with a weighty object of what were once ice cubes but latterly ice pack is an activity common in many households around 6.30 in the evening.

The nature of the game has of course changed from the days when the trick was to dislodge the ice tray with a knife whilst trying at the same time to remove the fingers of the other balancing hand from the shell of the freezer compartment without too much loss of skin.

It may be however that Mrs Roase's enigmatic problem (December 4) has a simple cause. Upon removal from the freezer, radiant heat, present in all kitchens from lights, cookers and windows, will find a clear bag easier to penetrate than an opaque bag, thereby making the contents of the clear bag "sweat" more easily than those of the opaque type. The minuscule amount of water thus released will, when the bag is replaced in the freezer, amalgamate the cubes into that cold unyielding lump so familiar to many tipplers. QED?

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT GRESHAM GRAY,
2 Elysage Road, SW18.

More or less?

From Mr Jeremy Lee-Browne

Sir, Mrs R. G. M. Williams asks (December 9) whether women have ever been a minority group. They became one in Genesis IV when Eve bore Cain, and an even smaller minority in verse 2 when she bore Abel.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY LEE-BROWNE,
Park Farm House,
Fairford,
Gloucestershire,
December 9.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 11: Mr. Edmund Butler (Secretary to the Governor-General of Canada) had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning.

Mr. F. S. E. Trew (British High Commissioner to Belize) and Mrs. Trew had the honour of being received by The Queen.

The Countess of Minto had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and delivered up the insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by her late father.

Sir Kenneth Clucas had the honour of being received by The Queen upon his retirement as Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade.

Sir Peter Preston had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his retirement as Permanent Secretary, Overseas Development Administration.

The Queen this afternoon visited Farmington School, Headmaster, Mr. Graham Waters, on the occasion of the Tercentenary of the Thomas Parramatta, and subsequently opened the new premises at Garston, North Watford.

Having been received by Her

Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Major-General Sir George Burns) and the Chairman of the Governors (Mr. Derek Lambly), The Queen toured the School, laid the Foundation Stone of the new Classroom Block and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr. Robert Fellowes and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales presented wings to 27 Maritime Helicopter Observers Course at HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset today.

Major John Winter was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, as president, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will attend the Friends of Covent Garden Christmas party at the Royal Opera House tomorrow evening.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a carol recital at the Fishmongers' Hall in aid of the British Sailors' Society next Wednesday.

The Prince of Wales, Trustee of the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will attend a Christmas celebration at Guildford Cathedral, Surrey, on December 21.

Christians and arms control agreements

Underlying the divergent attitudes to nuclear weapons are two different understandings of human nature and society. Optimists believe that war is endemic, to mankind. States always have fought one another and they always will. Optimists work on the assumption that society 'could' radically change if only enough people had the will to work for it.

Pessimism can be based on any one of a number of ideologies from an 'All-Garrett wisdom of the streets' to a Christian belief that all human beings are morally flawed by original sin. Similarly optimism can be motivated by a variety of world views from the anarchistic—if only we abolish all states wars will cease—to the Marxist theory that wars will end when the class struggle is ended by the coming of a truly communist society.

In its Christian form optimism is based on the potential of everyone to be a child of God if, empowered by the Holy Spirit, they follow in the footsteps of Christ. These underlying assumptions about human nature and society need to be brought out into the open. But this is necessary only in order that they might be put in proper perspective. For the fact is that whether we are hopeful or doubtful about

the prospects for mankind on this earth there seems to be only one practical way towards peace and that is by carefully negotiated agreements first to limit and then gradually to reduce arms.

Those who think that armed conflict is the inevitable lot of mankind hope to maintain an uneasy peace through a balance of terror. Nevertheless, even on the assumption that states pursue what they conceive to be their own interests and that they are right to do so, arms control measures are desirable. They allow more money to be spent on other items in hard pressed national budgets. They bring countries together round the table thereby enabling them to see more clearly where everyone stands and so reducing the risk of war.

Robert Bowie, an American academic and former politician, argued from this point of view: "The safest premise is this: in breaking or keeping agreements, the parties can be trusted to pursue their own interests as they see them" and concluded "within the limits discussed, there is room for substantial measures to stabilize the deterrent and to make initial modest reductions. Moreover, experience with inspection, and the applications of imagination and invention to developing

its techniques, could broaden the area for further measures".

Those who are hopeful that there might at some point be general and complete disarmament need to have an even greater commitment to arms control. For it is obvious that the world is not going to disarm overnight. Universal disarmament, if it were ever possible, would have to be approached through a number of stages. Mankind is not going to be changed from a society based on fear to one based on trust in an instant. Trust has to be built up gradually. If an agreement can be made then, however partial and limited its scope, if this agreement is kept, there is that degree more trust for the next round of negotiations.

So, whether we are optimistic or pessimistic, arms control agreements are important to all of us. That will remain so whether the present Geneva talks fulfil or dash the high hopes which many people have of them. This is why I welcome the newly formed Council for Arms Control. As the introductory leaflet puts it "instead of arguing unilateral disarmament, we should all be campaigning for disarmament with a logical and agreed order of priorities".

At the moment those at the

heart of the deterrence system trying to make it work and those alienated by it and from this system, speak different languages. The first community, concerned as they are, and rightly, with the stability of the system, use the language of strategic and political analysis.

"How will this action be seen by the other side? Will it make the international order more or less volatile?" is the standard question. Meanwhile, those outside, appalled at what will happen to real flesh and blood if deterrence fails, speak the language of moral absolutes.

A common world of discourse needs to be found, in which the importance of keeping the system, so long as we have it, stable is recognized as an important moral objective and where every ounce of political sophistication and skill is put into the task of reaching agreements that build trust and release money now spent on arms for more worthwhile goods. All Christians are bound to be peace-makers but the absolute ideal that presses upon us has to be pursued in a tough and complex world of antagonistic interests.

Richard Harries
Dean of King's College,
London.

OBITUARY

Mr WILLIAM JOHNSTONE

Painter and art colleges principal

Mr William Johnstone, OBE, painter and formerly Principal of two London art colleges, the Camberwell and Central Schools, died on December 5. He was 84. Johnstone was a person of remarkable abilities and immense energy. The range and level of his achievements, as artist, teacher and administrator, owed much to his rigorous, early upbringing as to his commitment and to his belief in the importance of the bond that, for him, existed between nature and man. It was the understanding and expression of this relationship that inspired him so strongly for so long.

From early boyhood, growing up as he did on his father's farm in Selkirk, he quickly developed an appreciation of the value of life and the meaning of work to be done. The rich pattern of border landscape and the classical, timeless quality of the wild scenery of Scotland became spiritually and visually important to him, enhanced as he was by an awareness of the presence of his forebears around him, and stimulated by the evidence he discovered of the activities of earlier man.

A prolific and ever-developing artist, torn between painting and farming, he would undoubtedly have become much more widely known as a painter had he not for some 30 years, at the height of his powers, become so fully committed to teaching.

Starting in 1931 as an art teacher in Haverstock Hill School for Boys, with the then LCC, his directness, originality and, at that time, largely unorthodox approach to teaching, prompted by innovative work on the Continent—by Froebel, Montessori, Rudolf Steiner, Franz Cisek and others—quickly assured him reputation and success.

His appointment as OBE, together with the Honorary Doctorate bestowed upon him by the University of Edinburgh in 1960, and the retrospective exhibition of his work in 1961 at the Hayward Gallery (especially fitting, as it was he who had suggested to Sir Isaac Hayward, of the London County Council, that the South Bank should have an art gallery), gave him the recognition and delight that his long and distinguished life deserved.

SIR ROBERT WRIGHT

Sir Robert Wright, DSO, OBE, FRCP, FRCS, FRCS (Glas) who died on December 4 at the age of 66, had only recently resigned from the presidency of the General Medical Council, after 11 years. He had been a member of the council since 1970 and was elected president in 1960.

The second son of Dr Hugh P. Wright, he was born on March 1, 1904, in Hamilton Academy and the University of Glasgow where he took his BSc in 1934 and MB ChB with honours three years later.

In the Second World War

he served with distinction in the RAMC, winning a DSO in 1945. He had been appointed OBE a year earlier.

After the war he was assistant surgeon at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, from 1946 to 1953 in which year he was appointed surgeon in charge at the Southern General Hospital in the same city. He was an honorary FRCS and FRACS. From 1958 to 1970 he was president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

He married in 1946 Helen Tait. They had one son and two daughters.

MR G. R. TAYLOR

Mr Gordon Ratnay Taylor, who died on December 7, at the age of 70.

The only son of Frederick Robert Taylor and Adèle Baker, he was born on January 11, 1911, and after Radley College and Trinity College, Cambridge, he worked as a journalist for the *London Post*, then freelance, and then with the *Daily Express*.

His war work was first with the BBC Monitoring Service and European News, and then from 1944-45 with the Psychological Warfare Division of SHAEF. After the war he lived mainly as a freelance writer and broadcaster; he was from 1963-66 chief science adviser to the BBC, and from 1964-66 a successful editor of BBC TV's *Horizon* series. He won several awards and prizes for his work in television.

It is, however, as a writer of books that he won his principal reputation, describing himself in *Who's Who* as one specializing in understanding social change. His titles of his early books justify this claim; they include *Economics for the Exasperated*, *Conditions of Happiness and Art Workers*, *Harmony*, *The Downward Book* (1970) pioneered the study of man's deprivations upon himself. There is hardly a major issue from dangerous drugs to the destruction of the atmosphere, from clones to artificial intelligence, from the erosion of the landscape to the disappearance of whole species, which he did not identify and on which he did not serve a warning.

Later books, such as *How to Avoid the Future* and *The Natural History of the Mind*, were possibly more distinguished but, because perhaps less frightening, enjoyed less popular success. *The Downward Book* (1970) pioneered the study of man's deprivations upon himself. There is hardly a major issue from dangerous drugs to the destruction of the atmosphere, from clones to artificial intelligence, from the erosion of the landscape to the disappearance of whole species, which he did not identify and on which he did not serve a warning.

With considerable heroism, during nearly two decades of suffering, he wrote his final book, to be published next year. Entitled *The Great Evolution Mystery* it is, with virtually all his work, both topical and prophetic, being a study, completed before the present controversy, of the re-appraisal of Darwin and the re-evaluation of Lamarck and the present exercising many scientists in various disciplines.

He married first Lysbeth Morley Sheaf by whom he had two daughters, and secondly Olga Treherne Anthonis.

MR RASHID VARACHIA

Mr Rashid Varachia, the first President of the multi-racial South African Cricket Union, died in Johannesburg yesterday.

Though born in Bombay, Varachia was a third generation South African, a well-to-do businessman who did as much as anyone to bring together under one governing body the majority of

cricket-playing South Africans.

He was re-elected as president for a second term last September, after having been in London in July to address the International Cricket Conference, a frail figure dedicated to South Africa's re-admission into the cricketing community. The ICC's refusal then to reinstate South Africa was a deep disappointment to him.

DR LIONEL BUTLER

Professor Katharine Worth writes: May I add a footnote to your obituary of Dr Lionel Butler?

It was a striking illustration of his creative energy and long-sightedness that he was able, even in the straitened seventies, to carry through a major new development for this Faculty of Arts at Royal Holloway College, the creation of a

Department of Drama and Theatre Studies, the first in the University of London. The establishment of this new department with its new single honours drama degree and the completion of a Smiles Theatre designed for departmental productions were achievements in which he took a special delight and for which the College owes him a special debt of gratitude.

Fortthcoming marriages

Mr S. Knappe and Miss C. Woollett.

The engagement is announced between Selwyn, son of Mr and Mrs L. Knappe, of London, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. A. Woollett, of Hardowne House, Dorset.

Mr M. A. C. Barrett and Miss E. J. Stoeck.

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of the late Mr B. R. J. Barrett and Mrs B. D. Pullen, of Sandhurst, Berkshire, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Stoeck, of London, W1.

Mr R. Horwell and Miss L. Pannam.

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs John Horwell, of Morden, Surrey, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Pannam, of Poole, Dorset and Liskeard, Cornwall.

Mr D. F. D. Styles and Miss P. A. Moore.

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. J. D. Styles, of Colchester, Essex, and Alexandra, youngest daughter of Commander and Mrs O. R. Moore, of Kingston Magna, Dorset.

Marriages

Mr J. C. A. Russell and Miss M. Summerson.

The marriage took place yesterday at Chelsea Register Office between Mr John Russell, son of Sir Francis and Lady Russell, of Lime Tree Cottage, Church Oakley, Bedfordshire, and Miss Janet Summerson, daughter of the late Squadron Leader J. A. Sims and Mrs Sims, of Chelsea, Fenchurch Road, Chigwell, Essex.

Mr B. J. Cocks and Mrs S. Wood.

The marriage took place in London on December 11, between Mr David Cocks, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. H. G. Cocks, of Lower Bosney, Eden, East Sussex, and Mrs Sara Wood, eldest daughter of the late Mr H. A. Child and Mrs L. Child, of Skivvalls House, Chalfont Hill, Gloucestershire.

Latest wills

£20,000 reward to 'underpaid' worker

Mr Ian Donald MALCOLMSON, of Maudsberry, Stow-on-the-Wold, left estate valued at £15,131 net. He left £20,000 to Jane Kaufman, of Ide Hill, Stevenage, "in recognition of all the profitable business she has done for the World Wild Life Fund whilst underpaid".

Mr Peter Jardine Bonhote WILSON, former chief sports writer at the *Daily Mirror*, left estate in England and Wales valued at £24,214.

Memorial services

Sir Lionel Beale, QC.

The Prime Minister was represented by Sir Michael Havers, QC, MP, Attorney General, and the Speaker by Mr Bernard Weatherill, MP, at the memorial service for Sir Lionel Beale, QC, held on Thursday at the Temple Church, Canon Joseph Robinson (Master of the Temple) officiated. Mr Sir John Gifford (Treasurer of the Middle Temple) read the lesson and Canon L. E. Tanner gave an address. Among others present were: Mr and Mrs Harold Beale (widow), Mr and Mrs Mary Beale (daughters-in-law), Mr and Mrs David Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs John Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Charles Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Robert Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs William Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Thomas Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs James Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Henry Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs George Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Edward Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs John Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs William Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Thomas Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs James Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Henry Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs George Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Edward Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs John Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs William Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Thomas Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs James Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs Henry Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs George Beale (sons-in-law), Mr and Mrs 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Saturday Review

Bernard Levin traces his musical path from

abandoned violin lessons to willing surrender of head, heart

and soul: from his new book, 'Conducted Tour' (Cape £7.50)

My music by Bernard Levin

I do not come of a musical family. There was a piano in the parlour of my infancy, an upright with handsome scapes, and among my earliest memories are those of the regular visits of the tuner, whom I would watch in astonishment and fascination, having no idea what he was doing, or why. But I have only the most fleeting recollection of ever hearing it played; even if I have not imagined the scene altogether, the only possible pianist would have been a favourite aunt who died young. One of my mother's two brothers played the cello, though in a dance-band, and the brother-in-law of my other uncle was a violinist in the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and was destined much later to play a significant part in my discovery of music, but apart from these the only other musical theme in my childhood was one which very nearly put me off music altogether for the rest of my life.

When I was born, and I dare say the tradition still persists, it was the custom of every Jewish mother of humble origin and unimproved circumstances to be convinced that her son, particularly if he was an only son (as I was), was destined to be the next Kreisler or Heifetz. By the time I was old enough for the theory to be put to the test on me, the currently envisaged destiny was for the child to be the next Menuhin, who was the most recent in the line of prodigies; when Yehudi Menuhin's sensational London debut took place I was one year old, and I have no doubt that my mother, reading accounts of the *Wunderkind* in the *News Chronicle*, gazed thoughtfully at my cot and began to think about the pride she would feel as her son trotted knickerbockered on to the platform at the Albert Hall and trotted off an hour later with his hair full of rose-petals.

When I was seven, therefore, a miniature violin was bought for me, like the old dancing-master's "kit". It came equipped with a bow, a plentiful supply of rosin, a yellow duster, and a fat little black cushion which rested between my left collarbone and the back of the violin; the purpose of this device neither anybody else understood, and indeed it remained obscure to me until ten minutes ago when, embarking on this sentence, it occurred to me to solve the ancient mystery by consultation with Grove, who explained that the cushion was used to prevent the player hunching up his left shoulder in the effort to keep the instrument steady, and thus running the risk of impairing his left-hand technique.

All that remained was for a tutor to be engaged. I do not know what was the going rate for violin lessons in the mid-1930s; not very much, I suppose. But however small the fees may have been, I have no doubt that they were a considerable strain on the family finances, particularly since equity demanded that my sister should be taught an instrument too. In her case the piano, though in her case without expectations of the Albert Hall.

When I think of what now followed, and by what hair's breadth I avoided acquiring a lasting hatred of the very thought of music and an even more intense loathing of its sound, I offer up a *Heilige Dankgesang* to St Cecilia, and beseech her to intervene, as she surely must have done for me, on behalf of I know not how many other children who, with no innate musical aptitude, fall into the hands of teachers who are quite unable to convey to them any sense whatever of what music actually is, apart from the notes on the paper and the horrible noises that the unprodigious infant makes in an attempt to reproduce them.

Such a teacher was the well-meaning soul who took my musical tuition in hand, and who, for two-and-a-half years before I finally struck work and refused to spend another minute practising in such torment, left me in complete ignorance even of the fact that there were such things as works of music—sonatas, quartets, concertos, even symphonies—let alone that it was possible to go and listen to them, and derive much enjoyment from doing so. For two-and-a-half years I laboured at this joyless thing they called music without so much as learning the name of a single composer, or indeed discovering that such people existed. Up and down the scales I went, progressing in the end as far as a rendition of "The Bluebells of Scotland"; I have detested that tune ever since, and it is a mercy I have not grown up with a similar abhorrence of bluebells, or even Scotland.

Of course, there was Sir Robert Mayer, whose Children's Concerts had been going since 1922; but even Sir Robert had to wait until somebody—parent, uncle, teacher, friend—actually brought the child to the hall, and nobody thought of bringing me. Some time after my ninth birthday, therefore, I abandoned my violin for ever, and acquired a scooter in its place; I frequently fell off it and skinned my knees, but I never doubted that I had got the better of the bargain.

My boarding-school, Christ's Hospital, though no Bryanston or Dartington, was very musical; there was an orchestra and a choir as well as a brass band, and rooms for practice. But the burnt child shunned the fire, and it was not until my last couple of years, when a group of the more musical boys founded a gramophone society and began to give recitals on Sunday afternoons, that, for the first time in my life, I sat down and listened to music.

I wish I could say that there and then the gates of heaven were flung open for me, but it was a slow business at first. Some years ago, talking to Colin Davis, who had not long since been appointed Musical Director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, I reminded him that we had been at the same school (he, already musical, had played the clarinet in the orchestra) and asked him how his early interest in music had been aroused. He could fix the occasion precisely; as a child he had heard Beethoven's Eighth Symphony on the radio, and been pierced through the soul by the revelation it offered him.

"But you make it sound," I said, "like a religious conversion." "Yes," he replied, "that's exactly what it was like." No such experience befell me; but without doubt those afternoons in Big Hall ploughed the soil and planted the seed.

A little before my eighteenth birthday, I went to a Promenade Concert at the Albert Hall; it must have been the first post-war season of the revived Proms. A few days later, I went to another, and returned the following night for a third. In the end, I went to some thirty concerts in the two months of the Proms, and a month or so later I scrambled up to the gallery of Covent Garden for my first opera. Whatever music was, it had happened to me at last.

There followed a great making-up for lost time; for several years, I must have spent an average of fully three evenings a week on music. If it wasn't a concert or an opera it was the gramophone, usually at the home of my cousin Clive, the son of the London Philharmonic violinist; he had discovered music at much the same time as I had, and together we haunted the galleries of the Albert Hall and

Covent Garden, the Sunday night chamber-music concerts at Conway Hall (a shilling—six anywhere—and twopence for a programme), the maiden-auntish Wigmore, little dreaming that in the fullness of the years someone would build an even uglier concert-room, and call it the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Uncle Alex used to get us tickets for the LPO's concerts at a reduced price; more, he would often look in on us in Clive's room as we listened, discussed and argued, and join in the musical conversations. He was no theoretician or musicologist, but he conveyed to us a vast amount of musical understanding, from the bee's-eye viewpoint of an orchestral player; if only it had been he who had put that fiddle under my chin, and bade me play "The Bluebells of Scotland".

He also taught us some of the rhymes that orchestral musicians—a notoriously ribald lot—sing under their breath to familiar tunes, and to this day I cannot hear the waltz from the *Serenade* for Strings by Tchaikovsky without also hearing a quatern which begins "Have you seen our Nellie make water?"

But to this day, also, I cannot hear Bach's Third Brandenburg Concerto without conjuring up the magical years in which I was making my journey into music. We cannot remember how the practice began, but Clive and I invariably used to end our evenings at the gramophone by playing the Third Brandenburg; its palate-cleansing properties (for who could go to bed on the Eroica or the Brahms Fourth?) provided the perfect coda for such occasions, and left us hungry for more when the next occasion presented itself. I later heard it played, with variations, by a busking violinist in a passage-way of the Madrid Underground, and the trick worked instantly; before three bars had gone by, I was drowning in memories.

After the how, the who. At that age, you have to be very odd not to fall without reservation under the spell of Beethoven, and for me, too, he was music's god. As the years go by, I find—this, also, is not an uncommon phenomenon—that Beethoven's hold weakens. Nowadays, a year can easily pass without my hearing the Emperor, whereas at the age of nineteen I was convinced that I would die if I didn't hear it once a fortnight.

"All life," I once wrote, "is a progress towards Mozart," and what I meant (the remark was widely misunderstood) was that the older we get the more we seek, unless we are incapable of seeking anything, for an answer to those questions which Mozart asks but which Beethoven (the symphonic Beethoven, at any rate) simply buries beneath the molten lava pouring from his volcanic certainty, optimism and joy. Nowadays, I listen far more often to the Beethoven quartets, particularly the late ones, than to the symphonies, and to the piano sonatas than to the concertos, and my evenings are far more often spent in the company of Mozart and Schubert, who were only on the fringes of my young musical life when Beethoven reigned in glory.

Next came Wagner, which was the *coup de foudre*. I heard the *Tannhäuser* Overture on the radio one evening, and can only describe my feelings in the words attributed to Lescaur at his first hearing of the Beethoven Fifth: "I couldn't put on my hat, because I couldn't find my head."

In those days, Wagner had an evening a week to himself at the Proms, but the war-long ban on performances of his music meant that those young people who were a few years my senior had grown up, musically, without him, and I have a vivid recollection of vast empty spaces in the Promen-



ade, where the young usually stood, while the rest of the Albert Hall was crammed to suffocation with the older concert-goers who had learned to love Wagner before they learned that they shared that love with Hitler, and were getting their first doses of the drug for six years, while I gulped it down by the bucket with all the enthusiasm of the newly addicted.

Does his hold weaken too? Yes, it does, though even now, when I hear the opening bars of the Prelude to *Tristan*, or the merest growl from Fafner as a snatch of *Siegfried* passes by, or the shimmering wonder of the Good Friday Spell from *Parsifal*, the passion flares up, and in a few seconds I am once again drunk beyond breathalizers. Besides, though I can now conceive of a time when I no longer want, or at least need, to hear the Ring or *Tristan*, *Lohengrin* or even *Parsifal*, I cannot see how life would be possible without *The Mastersingers*. For *The Mastersingers* is life itself, in all its passing shadows and enduring splendour, and I could no more imagine, or indeed find tolerable, a world without it than I could think myself into a world without *The Marriage of Figaro*.

But the shift of emphasis to *The Mastersingers* is a vital clue. In my early days of Wagner-mania, the four volumes of Shaw's music criticism were my four gospels; I read them until I knew huge chunks of them by heart, and I can recite much of them still. It is unwise to assume that the only influence on the development of a musical taste is the music, for the written word can set off explosions of its own; I had

read Shaw on Wagner (not only the criticisms but *The Perfect Wagnerite*) well before that first hearing of the *Tannhäuser* Overture, and he had not only awakened my curiosity but in a very real sense injected the fever-agent into my bloodstream so that I was already in a sufficiently debilitated state to make it certain that I would succumb as soon as I was exposed to the more potent strain of the bacillus in the form of the music itself.

It was only many years later, when I began to notice that there were more clergymen in the Royal Opera House on Wagner nights than at performances of any other composer's works, and that most of them were alone, that I also began to wonder what it was in Wagner that appealed to me so much, and what it was that I had in common with the clergymen and Shaw, and for that matter Hitler. We may fear the great emotions, but we need them, and if we cannot allow them into our lives directly, we are under the necessity of bringing them in vicariously, and therefore, we like to think, safely. Whence the clergymen, Hitler, and me. And whence, at last now, the weakening hold.

I came to some composers very late, for purely accidental reasons; when I was setting out on the great journey, Bruckner was hardly known at all in Britain, and his symphonies were therefore very little played; it was years before I began to get to know those vast cathedrals and to realize that their composer can stand comparison with Beethoven himself; there are fashions in music as in everything else, and from fashion grows habit, and habit plays a much greater part

in the settlement of our musical and other tastes than we like to think. (I did not get the Sibelius habit early, and the consequence is that I have still not got it, and am conscious whenever I hear one of the symphonies that I am missing a great deal. But I think that I shall never get the habit of Mahler.)

Mozart and Schubert, however, took hold only very gradually. There was plenty of Mozart available, of course, when I was young, though not so much Schubert as there is now, and of course I listened to a lot of it, and of course I had no doubt that here was one of the highest peaks in the whole range. Yet even the symphonies, even the operas themselves, did not touch me as deeply as did Beethoven and Wagner, and every new discovery I made in those formative days served, though I did not then know it, to push further away the moment of true awakening.

There was Richard Strauss, for instance, who at first had almost an overwhelming effect as Wagner; Rosenkavalier went straight on to the top shelf of the Pantheon. Nowadays, having more knowledge of what cunning can do, I see through it, and watch it with one eyebrow up and one down; but there is no danger of its ever being expelled from its place. There was also Rossini, who is surely the most under-rated genius in all music, much more so even than Haydn, for Haydn is underrated only by fools, whereas Rossini is dismissed even by many of the understanding.

But Mozart, as I say, stood somewhere where I could only really see him out of the corner

of my eye. And here I came up against something puzzling, for Shaw was not only Wagner's champion, but also Mozart's. I can still feel the indignation I experienced when he insisted, as he does throughout his music criticism, that Mozart was a greater artist than Beethoven; Lucifer trying to throw God out of Heaven would not have struck me as of greater impiety.

Shaw, obviously, had missed the point (he had to miss it, or rewrite his own life), and analyzed Mozart's superiority to Beethoven in terms of greater originality; the pioneer is a more creative figure than a consolidator. The argument is a nonsense in itself, and greater nonsense as a substitute for the real argument, but the burr clung to my mind, and eventually, as Mozart grew and grew in my heart (he has not stopped growing yet), I began to realize that Shaw had stumbled accidentally upon the most profound truth of all. So perhaps he prepared my bloodstream for the healing antibody of Mozart, too.

All music-lovers, it is true, dwell in a golden age of the past, and I would listen unbelieve as I was told how my heroes and heroines could not hold a candle to Mahler and Leider, Ponselle and Lehmann, Caruso and Chaliapin, Kreisler, Paderewski, Casals, Rachmaninoff, Ysaye.

I didn't believe my elders, and do not expect my juniors to believe me, for if every generation is right then either there has been a consistent decline in musical standards from the day that music was born, or distance lends enchantment to the hearing. Or perhaps not, perhaps the Second World War, a watershed for so much in our world, and the end of so much that was precious and irreplaceable, swept away something from the arts too, and left behind only something lesser. Perhaps a musical golden age did close in September 1939, and perhaps my generation did have the good fortune to hear its very last echoes immediately after the war ended, before those echoes faded for ever.

And yet it remains abundantly true that listening to beautiful music, well played and sung, in one of the more charming festival centres of Europe, is an experience to be compared with the very best that life can offer.

To look across the hurrying river at the Cathedral of Salzburg from the windows of a room at the Österreichischer Hof, its sill alive with window-boxes full of geraniums; to leave that room and stroll over to Tomasselli's, there to consume a cup of chocolate and a pastry of diabolically deceptive lightness, accompanied by an immense amount of whipped cream; to go from there, at the same leisurely pace, into the Festspielhaus, and there hear Mozart sung by a fine cast and played by the Vienna Philharmonic under one of the world's leading conductors, to dine

after the performance in a simple wine-house; to emerge into a balmy evening, and to wander for an hour, before going to bed, through the streets of the old town; to return to the hotel with head and heart and soul full of the Countess's "*Perdona, perdona*," and the chorus of benediction and joy which follows it; this is to pass a day at a level of pleasure and fulfillment that is not easily surpassed.

And if that seems too grand, and something simpler is sought, try this. Leave a less luxurious hotel in Aldeburgh and stroll up the High Street to the Festival Office in its handsome Georgian building; catch the bus outside, full of music-goers, friendliness and expectation; travel through the lanes to Snape; hear there a recital of songs, carefully balanced between the familiar and unfamiliar, by one of England's loveliest voices; eat simply but well of fresh natural food; return to the hotel, there to be lulled to sleep by the sound of a gentle sea; the experience will be very different from the one in Salzburg, but the peace and satisfaction at the end of it will be of a like quality.

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Nowadays I listen far more often to the Beethoven quartets, particularly the late ones, than to the symphonies



Bernard Levin with the Amadeus Quartet, who are to appear in a special edition of The Levin Interviews on Boxing Day (BBC 2, 9.15 pm)

Dudley Moore

Who takes the title role in the film *Arthur*, opening in the West End on Thursday



Apart from playing the organ at church weddings in Dagenham, where he grew up, Dudley Moore made one of his earliest public appearances as composer and conductor of the incidental music to *Antony and Cleopatra* in a production by Magdalen, Oxford. It was a good score and Moore was later offered a music fellowship by his college at roughly the same time as Ian Bennett was trying to decide whether to become a history don. Bennett was tempted but Moore was not.

"Already in my second year the bright lights were calling. I used to travel around on the back of a truck with three top dancers — it was just like a rerun of *The Blue Angel*. When I left Oxford I played with the Vic Lewis Orchestra and that was a big mistake. I modelled myself entirely on Errol Garner which did not go down at all with the soloists. Nevertheless, Vic always treated me well. Later when he was running a theatre in Manchester he put me on the bill there — after the wrestling. That wasn't so good, but I did have a very deep relationship with one of the strippers who was in the same line-up."

unsophisticated girl from Queen's (Liza Minnelli). Moore was surprised when he was sent the script. "It was clearly written for an American and I'm not an American. I can do Welsh, or Scottish at a pinch. But American, no. I loved that script. It was nutty and mad. It had zest and optimism and it made me laugh. I was ready to grovel to play it. Then of course we changed most of it as we filmed. Steve Gordon, who directed the picture, attacked it daily with new words always written in block capitals. He is very New York and very Jewish, with all the sharpness and wit of that combination. He alternates between utter despair and complete self-confidence. And he sees his analyst daily."

Part of the quality of *Arthur* comes from the theatrical timing of the three leading players. Gielgud, Moore and Minnelli can assemble quite a few stage hours between them. David Niven was originally considered for the part of the valet, but Moore rooted for Sir John Gielgud against opposition from the Americans and had pigeon-holed him as a tragedian and not a comedian. The casting turned

out to strike the bull's eye. Moore also argued with Gordon over the character of Arthur himself. "Steve saw him mainly as a child. But to me he is a jolly boozier, a man with a child-like zest for enjoyment, otherwise he would be a pain in the arse. There's quite a lot of me in him. I love to have a laugh. I love to entertain and to be entertained. The only difference is that I don't drink spirits because they're never doing anything for me."

How much time has Moore spent observing drunks? "Quite a lot. There used to be a marvellous act on the Jimmy Logan show in Glasgow by a comedian whose name I've forgotten. And certainly when I was playing the chaps I came up against quite a lot of them. Often they are annoying, but there is also something rather touching when they are trying to hold on to the last thread of reason with the

eyelids all a-flutter. I used a bit of that." Dudley Moore gives the impression of having grown up with the London music-hall. And that, he declares, is totally false. "Music-hall! We weren't allowed to go there because it was considered very rough. My Mum used to put it in the same category as the Royal Oak pub, that was very rough. Always cross the road, dear, before you come to the Royal Oak," she used to say.

"No, the only theatre I had been to before Oxford was *Bless the Bride*. The influences on me have been purely cinematic — Fernandel, early Peter Sellers such as *I'm All Right, Jack*. I wish though I had seen Sid Fields in the flesh. I was daft enough to watch one of his films when I was in hospital for a self-blister operation. It did the stitches no good at all."

John Higgins



Radio/David Wade

The trouble with coming first

We tend to look back not much further than the Second World War for the origins of our national decline. After all, did we not go into it with a great big Empire? And find ourselves some ten years later well down the road to having none at all? Reversing the experience of *Bello's* Lord Lucky, we seemed to have fallen in less than half an hour from riches, dignity and power.

One of the virtues of Roy Lewis's *Where Did It Go?* (subtitled "How We Caught the British Disease", Radio 4) is that over five Saturdays it has traced the process of decline a great way further back. Our reputation for being over-priced and old-fashioned goes back to the 1870s. We might be said never to have recovered from the disadvantages of being first. Our immense successes in steam, rail, gas, and the accompanying sense of superiority, made us slow to electrify; we were still proclaiming dura-

bility when others had seen that the future lay with replaceability. We can still be heard doing so. Lewis has examined other contributory factors: our class system and, related to it, our failure to provide the sort of education required by an industrial age. The persistence of this last must be obvious to almost anyone who thinks back to his (and even more to her) school days.

Certainly in the late 1940s, when I was going through the mill, English education was managed by a process of more or less unconscious indoctrination to propagate the belief that industry was somehow a second-class occupation. The classicists, the historians — they were the schools shining lights; mathematicians might be tolerated, but as for sciences my dear I bet it goes on to this day.

Further from the need to survive in the real world, this afternoon, in case the fault should seem to lie entirely with our ancestors, Lewis concludes by examining what we, the living, do to compound their felony. To this end he will be questioning the eminent dead and this has been his way throughout using as his questioner a formidable lady reporter from the next world played by Anna Massey. I can't say the match has been elegant, but on the other hand it has conveyed some far-reaching and cogent answers to the question of the programme's title.

If this series has offered limited opportunities to Miss Massey, she has been able to enhance her considerable radio reputation by her playing of *Harriet Fringle* in the recently concluded *Leant Trilogy*, crisply adapted from Olivia Manning by Eric Ewens. This succession of three Monday plays produced by John Tyndeman and David

Spenser has provided absorbing listening. Fine adaptation apart, the quality of all the acting has had much to do with it: Jack Shepherd, for example, playing opposite Miss Massey as *Gry Fringle*, offered a touching portrait of self-preoccupation — inimitable yet so vulnerable.

Nick Darke's afternoon play *Lifeboat* (Radio 4, Dec 3) was also in a different vein highly successful. With the author's personal experience of life boat work, it would have been surprising if his handling had been less than confident and full of atmosphere. Of course that doesn't guarantee the slightest human interest, and Darke's real achievement was to make that live: he did it mainly by steady understatement and knowing when to leave a lot to our imagination. He was indebted to his cast and notably to Brian Miller for directing one of the most impressive radio storms I can recall.

Concert/Hilary Finch

Bluebeard's power

RPO/Dorati
Festival Hall
The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Antal Dorati last night proved a concert performance of Bartók's only opera, *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, to be a strangely powerful way of ending his centenary celebrations.

A television production and a staged version at the Coliseum earlier this year seemed in retrospect only to have amplified to another sense dimension the internalized horrors of the drama, by suggestion or by making explicit its implicit mythic images. It was left to the sheer physicality and immediacy of an orchestra at stage level, and the denser emotional focusing of the music in two physically static protagonists to intensify and recharge the work: that Kodály called "a musical volcano that erupts for 60 minutes of compressed tragedy."

Klara Takacs and Kolos Kovacs, replacing an indisposed Julia Vardy and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, were compellingly counterbalanced as Judith and Bluebeard. The seemingly infinite variety of expressive colour in Miss Takacs's voice, from a dark, hard, menacing greed of desire to a still, vulnerable mezza voce of awe at the sight of Bluebeard's kingdom was, in detail, the more remarkable portrayal. Yet Mr Kovacs provided a still more engaging aristocratic figure, canonized in 1742, enough taste and knowledge to commission a work from Bach, he would have found that the resulting music, which is packed with the most varied interest, would have made him feel less rather than more sleepy.

This point did not quite come across, however, in Daniel Varsano's performance on Thursday evening. His approach was, of course, serious, unburied and shaped by real polyphonic thinking. One appreciated the sharp differentiation of simultaneous parts in Variations 18 and 19, and the beautiful line-drawing in 9 and 15. These latter are canonized by the third and fifth, and the pianist made a particular

Concert/Max Harrison

A point missed

Daniel Varsano
Queen Elizabeth Hall
The story that the Goldberg Variations were written specifically to help Count Hermann de Keyserling get over his insomnia has always struck me as implausible. For one thing, it is this engagingly aristocratic figure, canonized in 1742, enough taste and knowledge to commission a work from Bach, he would have found that the resulting music, which is packed with the most varied interest, would have made him feel less rather than more sleepy.

response to the canonic variations, above all in his affecting account of No 21. But Mr Varsano's reading of this, after all, vast work has not yet developed a strongly positive, or individual, character. Variation 25, the so-called "black pearl", the slowest but least-soporific of the series, should have sounded more intense, more introspective. Possibilities for considerable interpretative growth are unmistakably present, though, and not least in his light and tentative manner with the theme itself. This makes it seem as if he is unsure of its potentialities, and supplies an intriguing start for a long set of variations.

Television/Elkan Allan

Put us in the picture, please

In the whole of the newly published year book, *Television & Radio 1982*, in 224 closely packed pages of facts and information about every conceivable aspect of ITV, there is only one mention of movies. That is in a little table of what makes up the total mix: "Feature Films, 7 hours 23 minutes a week, 8% per cent" is all it says.

Four illustrated articles are devoted to religion and six to drama, but apart from that one brief reference, the audience's favourite viewing is ignored, along with American series and other bought-in programmes. BBC Year Books are no better: if you judged entirely from these alleged records of television output, you would assume that the only programmes shown were those made by the ITV contractors and the Corporation.

Yet, particularly at this time of year, both sides rely heavily on movies to pull in the ratings. The Christmas schedule has been widely publicized as *Gone With the Wind* versus *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, although *Close Encounters* has now triumphed and they will not go out simultaneously.

Just recently delivered the highest number of viewers (23,500,000) ever to watch a transmission on a single channel. The vast sum of money (£4.5m for GWTW) paid for films could finance a dozen plays. Yet the big drums are rarely beaten. When, for instance, can you remember seeing a film featured on the cover of *Radio Times*?

This dichotomy results, I suppose, from an excess of pride in the broadcasters' own production. Yet week after week, the dates I make in my diary are as often for

movies as for original productions. Apart from *Bridehead*, the offering I most looked forward to this week was Elaine May's film on Sunday, *The Heartbreak Kid*, and last week that marvellous political thriller, *The Parallax View*.

However, the companies and the Corporation treat them almost with contempt. Their spinning by the *Year Book* is only one indication of the attitude. For instance, although most modern films were made to be seen on screens wider than a 4:3 ratio, the presentation staff nearly always choose to show only the middle portion of the action, occasionally

lurching back and forth along the picture but often managing to omit both actors in a two-person scene if the director has placed them on the edges. What should be done is to accept a line above and below the action so that the whole frame can be seen as intended, but the programme chiefs have got it in their heads that this makes people switch off.

If the BBC happen to have three or four films with Bette Davis that have not been shown for a while, they put on what is called a Bette Davis Season, but there is no attempt to put the pictures in context or chronological — or any other logical — order.

ITV never even goes that far, simply chucking on its blockbusters as brazen ratings bait and leaving the rest to wander about the regions where presenters have obviously never heard of such people as directors. Occasionally a company like Southern or HTV will acquire a series of rarely seen foreign films and employ an expert to present them, but that is as rare as an oasis in the desert.

One Channel Four promise which I particularly look forward to seeing fulfilled is to buy outstanding films from all over the world and set them up properly. They are shown 15 hours a week, with six movies in peak time. Among seasons already scheduled is one of premieres (including *Babylon*, *Jubilee* and *Richard Pryor Live in Concert*); another of world cinema (*The Marriage of Maria Braun*, from Germany; *Stalker*, from Russia; *Rendezvous at Bray*, from Belgium); seasons of Lubitsch, Hitchcock, Howard Hughes, *Rare Birds* (*Alt*), *Money Can Buy*, *The Old Dark House*; and Great Detectives. All will be fully introduced, some with proper documentaries about the subject.

Jeremy Isaacs has also said he will not be afraid to show what may be considered "blue" movies late at night. I hope that means originals. The horrendous saw of *The Last Detail*, *The Wild Bunch* and *Don't Look Now* were all bowdlerised. I am told that the list of cuts for bad language in *The Last Detail* runs to 12. The coming transmission of *Slapshot* will be equally slashed.

The people responsible for buying movies for ITV have actually turned down two of the most compulsive films of the last year, Nicolas Roeg's brilliant *Bad Timing* and the box-office miracle-worker, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, the first because of its lurid sex scenes and the second because they considered the opening sequence too frightening for young children, and it would have to go out in early evening to recoup its high cost.

I can only say that my

eight-year-old saw it at the local cinema, adored it and had no bad dreams. As for *Bad Timing*, that would go on my list of best films of the past five years.

Some films are bought but never shown. The IBA refused to sanction *Outrage*, in which Robert Culp took the law in his own hands, lest others do the same. Nor would they allow the showing of *The Deadly Tower*, about a sniper. Even *Kung Kong* was banned by the IBA, only to be shown twice within a few weeks by the BBC, both times in the early evening.

ITV's Film Clearance Committee meets for two days each quarter to settle tricky problems. They divide the purchases into four categories — SAT (Suitable for Any Time); After 7.30, in the afternoon during term when the impressionable are at school, after 9 pm; and an unsuitable but undeniably perverted category. After 10.30 pm.

Even the late, late category will not accommodate every modern movie. For instance, George C. Scott's exploration of the Californian world of graphic film, *Hardcore*, is causing headaches at the moment.

While Mrs Whitehouse may throw up her hands in horror at the way *The Gambler* slipped through the net recently, ITV received more protests at cutting out a famous line from *Shampoo* when it was shown a few weeks ago, than from those who objected to its showing. The line? I think it would probably be cut from this column as well. I quoted it verbatim. And the 50 complainants could not bring themselves to quote it, either.

Television/Michael Ratcliffe

Laughable lessons in life

There were enough messages in *Findings on Afternoon Playhouse*, BBC 2, to keep British Telecom out of the red for ever, but they all arrived at the same time and the result, acted with a conviction it did not deserve, fell hilariously between a cookery lesson, first in aesthetics and *The Class of Life*.

It was never clear, from Rose Tremain's second play of recent weeks whether she was saying that man's existence was a soufflé which might turn out lumpy and have to be thrown away or whether it was a soufflé which, however correctly prepared, might still turn out wrong if neglected for Beethoven at the moment it was reaching, so to speak, concert pitch.

Both views were advanced — there were two soufflés as was the reminder that not even recourse to 12 eggs can guarantee success in this world, and the warning that men should keep away from the kitchen altogether when it belongs to a mantrap like the wife (Anne Firbank) of the international violinist

(Joss Ackland) and the mother of Gerald (John Nettles).

First seen crumpling sheets of paper in his office and aiming them into a bin with a good looking chap called Ethel (Alun Lewis), Gerald was clearly going off his head, at least surrendering it to elms that whispered and scampered among its ruins like a high-speed dental drill. Ethel's real name, it emerged, was Athelstone — and, therefore, properly heard, Athel — but he did not exist.

Invented by Gerald to hide the fact that he had wished to kill his brother, hated his mother, got Nanny the satck, been frequently kissed by a boy in the rhododendrons at school, imagnodated (then betrayed) sweet Annie to prove he was not queer, thus causing her death by drowning, perhaps Athel was the secret ingredient in his life that Gerald kept going on about. Mr Lewis played the flashbacks with mother, Nanny and Annie, but Mr Nettles blew the soufflés. I have no idea why.

Exhibition/John Russell Taylor

Victoriana with a slap of showbiz

Paintings for Collectors

Roy Miles Gallery
It is often a mistake to assume, just because someone is good at selling things or ideas, that what is sold must be worthless. Some people, after all, as well as loving their own field of activity, love everything connected with putting it over to the public: think of Shaw or Hitchcock. Roy Miles has caused some raised eyebrows in the stuffier purities of Bond Street by his refreshingly unconventional methods of bringing people into his gallery and merchandising the mostly nineteenth-century paintings he has there. But a dash of showbiz, flash and colour never did any harm, least of all to the paintings themselves, which remain good or bad no matter how you lay them out.

Most of those in his latest show of *Paintings for Collectors* are very good. Of their

kind, one should perhaps add, but then their kinds are already back in critical favour again, or soon about to be. There is no need any more to sound vaguely apologetic about enjoying something like Bouguereau's winsome *Cupidon* of 1891, even if the liking is a bit on the camp side. It is not necessary to make even that caveat on behalf of Russell Fin's *The Painted Bridge* (1923), in a frame also designed and painted by the artist; of course it is of more of his high-breasted, healthy nymphs, but the paint is laid on with extraordinary flair and relish for one who so seldom painted either on this scale or in oils. There is also a good, characteristic Shannon, *The Fisherman and the Mermaid*, dating from 1901-03, and an early Charles Sims *Classical Scene* of about the same date which, while it lacks the determined oddness of his later symbolic pieces, captures a certain quality of light with great expertise.

For those vowed to the more properly speaking Victorian there are some outstanding pieces. Of par-

ticular interest is Alma-Tadema's *Three Graces*, a highly finished central diamond and four sketched scenes surrounding. Victorian story-telling is best exemplified by William Henry Fisk's *Secret*, an intricate composition of almost Pre-Raphaelite attention to botanical detail which shows a trusting couple being spied on by a sinister Victorian child. Queen Victoria's sketch of the Scottish painter, Sir Joseph Noel Paton, is well represented by two typical pieces, *The Ballad Singers* and *Thomas the Rhymer and the Queen of the Fairies*, both also in their

delicately intricate original frames. Godward's *Girl with the Mirror* is a sensuous piece of late-Victorian discreet eroticism, and the Waterhouse, *Listen to My Sweet Fingert*, though late (1911) shows that he continued to cling to his arcaic dream-world well into the twentieth century.

Surprisingly enough, there are also some seventeenth and eighteenth-century Dutch still-lives and genre pictures which tone in perfectly. No doubt because they would have been so much to the same Victorian taste as the living British masters. Plus change...

LEGAL NOTICES
EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ACT, 1973
Notice of Application for a Licence, under the above Act, for the purpose of carrying on a business of an employment agency, in connection with the recruitment of staff for the purpose of the above Act, is hereby given notice in accordance with the provisions of the above Act that the following persons are applying for a licence under the above Act for the purpose of carrying on a business of an employment agency, in connection with the recruitment of staff for the purpose of the above Act, in the area of the London Borough of Lambeth, in the City of London, in the County of Middlesex, in the County of Surrey, in the County of Kent, in the County of Sussex, in the County of Hampshire, in the County of Devon, in the County of Cornwall, in the County of Dorset, in the County of Wiltshire, in the County of Berkshire, in the County of Oxfordshire, in the County of Gloucestershire, in the County of Warwickshire, in the County of Leicestershire, in the County of Northamptonshire, in the 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Arts and crafts/Isabelle Anscombe

Picasso pottery at purchasable prices

For those who sighed at the impossibility of ever owning one of Picasso's Pottery pieces it may come as a positive joy to find that there are aspects of the master's work available for under £1,000.

For 25 years Picasso made pottery at Ramit family's "Madoura" Pottery in Vallauris, a village in the South of France. He designed hundreds of different tiles, dishes, vases and jugs which were then produced in limited editions, ranging from 50 to 500 per edition, all showing his familiar obsessions — a goat's head, bull-fights, birds, fish, faces and female nudes — in the same striking colours as his canvases — green, blue, yellow, black and white.

The most vigorous and powerful pieces were made in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The clay is textured, cut, scratched and grooved; traditional shapes are transformed into unexpected faces or creatures and together the pots are a flood of unstoppable taste, ingenuity, wit and vitality, almost exhausting to behold. They also hold all the charm of the forms and colours of the local peasant pottery, conjuring up the familiar photographs of Picasso at work in the South of France.

Chitu, at 3 Halkin Arcade, London SW1, first saw the Picasso ceramics about 15 years ago and now buys them whenever he can. He feels that they were intended as easily available aspects of Picasso's endless inventiveness and, even though the Madoura Pottery has now ceased all production, wants them to remain at realistic prices. At the moment he has three vessels and a large dish, ranging from £500 to £800.



Lucie Rie. Porcelain bowl, brown and white with sgraffito, pink inlay 1954-56. Width 162mm.

In the 1950s others followed Picasso's lead in applying abstract designs to the crude shapes of peasant pottery. Cobra and Bellamy at 149 Sloane Street, London, SW1, specialize in 1950s and 1960s design which has already caught the imagination of French collectors. They have a black and white coffee set made in the village of Vallauris and some similar pieces marked "Orlando". It comes as a relief to see change from the ubiquitous "Art Nouveau" and "Art Deco" to see shapes, colours and patterns which startle the eye and require one to make up one's own mind as to whether or not the designs are successful. The pottery ranges from £150 to £250 for

a six-piece coffee set. Cobra and Bellamy also have silver jewelry designed for George Jensen in the late 1950s, a chest of drawers by the American designer Raymond Loewy, who changed the appearance of cars, refrigerators, cigarette packets and Coca-Cola cans, and stylized commercial ceramics which show direct links with the forms which began to emerge in the late 1930s.

Lucie Rie is a potter whose style developed out of the Modernist debates in pre-war Vienna. In 1938 she settled in England and in the 1950s she emerged as one of the most lyrical and disciplined potters of the time. A retrospective exhibition at the Sainsbury



Earthenware plate designed by Pablo Picasso for the Madoura Pottery, 1956.

Centre for Visual Arts at Norwich celebrated her 60th birthday; it closes on December 13 but reopens at the Victoria & Albert Museum on February 17 and the Crafts Council has published a book on her work.

Lucie Rie is still hard at work, still perfecting and refining her unparalleled sensitivity to shape and form and her delicate but impeccable taste in colour and texture. Her work is regularly for sale at Sotheby's and Christie's, nowadays in the £300-£500 range.

At the Crafts Study Centre in Bath is an exhibition showing a very different aspect of British craftwork. Susan Bosence was first inspired to try her hand at black printing and resist dyeing textiles after seeing the work of Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher, two women who more or less rediscovered the techniques in the 1920s. Barron and Larcher passed on their know-how and recipes and Susan Bosence set up her own workshop in Devon in the 1950s.

Block printing by hand is a long and difficult process but the effects achieved are unique and the colours resulting from using an indigo vat for blues, iron rust for browns, madder for red and quercitron for yellow are uncompromisingly strong. The exhibition spans her career and there are dresses,

cushion covers and lengths for sale ranging from under £10 to £75; she will also accept commissions.

This type of work is a continuation of the craft traditions of the 1920s and 1930s when individuals set out to master such techniques by a combination of trial and error and research among old, forgotten books. Phyllis Barron's reminiscences of her discoveries were frequently hilarious and it took real determination to solve the problems of over-flowing dye vats or lifting huge weights of sodden cloth; a story lies behind each length of fabric. The exhibition ends on January 5.

Most studio potters who make everyday, tableware tend to work in the rather plain, austere style of Bernard Leach, while those who are innovative tend to create impractical pots. Janice Tchalenko, however, makes useful, imaginative and beautiful jugs, bowls, plates and candle-olies. An exhibition of her most recent work — more than 30 pieces — shows a new complexity of pattern; colours laid on top of each other in geometric grids leaving an intricate mosaic effect of dark blue, green, dark pink and gold or used to create an effect of windblown flowers.

The richness of her glazes on a dinner table would be like a Byzantine feast and be as impressive as an ornate Sevres dinner service. Her shapes are simple and dignified but with a modern flair. Several galleries stock her work: Atmosphere at 175 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 has an exhibition of her pottery until December 24. Prices range from £7 to £84, but most are around £35.

Diary Quiz



The answers to these questions from the week's news will appear in Monday's Diary.

1. Who was made a merry old soul on Tuesday?
2. Bare-headed or bonneted?
3. Big end for a motorist's dream?
4. Fiscal frolics?
5. No joining of hands across the sea?
6. Who has promised the

world "a little Christmas spirit"?

7. An army of prisoners?
8. Who forecast a gloom of educated bankrupts?
9. Adversity match?
10. Whose resurrection was nearly scotched?
11. Falling star hits Britain?
12. Who are the new workers of Europe?
13. What made a striking return?
14. No work, but plenty to do?

Readers were not at their best with last week's picture of Princess Margaret, but the runner-up was Mr J. Pierson, of Rochdale, for "Even a Princess has to have a Prince" (his was also the worst pun); winner, G. J. Colcombe, of Hereford, for "Relax — just having a browse."

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Drink/Pamela Vandyke-Price
Wines to make New Year memorable

By Patrick Cunningham

Four Wines for Christmas

There's no point in being set in one's ways when it comes to drinking wine at Christmas. You may prefer red or white, dry or sweet, vintage or ordinary. But Christmas gives you an opportunity to drink them all — at lunches, dinners, parties, or just as a straight-forward drink (who needs lunches, dinners or parties as a justification?).

Unwinn offers a choice of over 1,000 wines, but this Christmas have particularly selected four as real value-for-money.

Muscadet de Sevre et Maine. Bottled in the Loire by Philippe Montmorin and shipped by Phillips Newman. A pleasantly dry white wine, clean-tasting and very refreshing. And at a very refreshing price of £1.99.

Cotes du Rhone, 1980. Stronger in taste, colour and alcohol than the more northerly Burgundies and Beaujolais. Bottled in the Valley of the Rhone and selected by Phillips Newman for Unwinn at a special Christmas price of £1.99.

Liebfraumilch, 1980. The classic hock — light, soft, fruity and faintly sweet. No wonder the Germans drink it for refreshment. It doesn't go to your head but it does (suitably chilled) slake your thirst. And at £1.99 a bottle or £3.99 for the 1½ litre bottle, it's a very good value.

Belle Cave. A range of four vintages in litres at a very competitive price of £2.20 — Red, Medium Dry Red, Dry White, and Medium Sweet White. Ideal for the party where you want to offer very acceptable quality, coupled with quantity, and at a reasonable price. There's also a standard bottle of Selection des Caves — Dry White or Red at a very economic £1.49. And with Christmas parties just about to begin, what could be better?

Unwinn are now stocking the increasingly popular Wine Box — 3 litres equivalent to four bottles. The initial choice lies between the red Vin de Pays du Gard at £6.99 and the White Savia Lesli Redling at £7.49. Exceptional value for money — and, once opened, the wine will keep in good condition for at least two months.

Christmas of course isn't just a time for drinking Wine. Wine may be Unwinn's particular expertise, but they do also offer spirits, fortified wines and beers, and they have made a number of special prices on these for Christmas.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERS	
Teachers	6.15
Gordons	5.85
Smirnoff White	5.79
Bristol Cream	2.89
Double Century Amontillado, Cream and Oloroso	2.49
Martini (Bianco, Dry, Rose and Sweet)	2.09
Cinzano (Bianco, Dry, Rose and Sweet)	2.09
Cotes du Rhone (Dry Red Wine)	1.99
Liebfraumilch (Medium White Wine)	1.99
Liebfraumilch (1.5 litre bottle)	3.99
Muscadet (Dry White Wine)	1.99
Belle Cave	
(Dry White, Red, Rose and Sweet White)	1.49
Selection des Caves (Dry White or Red)	1.49
Wilson's Top Brass	31
Harp Lager	32
Courage Light Ale	33
Watney Pale Ale	33
Carlsberg Pilsner Lager	37
Carlsberg Special Brew Lager	62

Unwinn

We're open when you need us.

Head Office: Birchwood House, Victoria Rd., Chertford, Kent.

Anyone who has watched the episode in *Brideshead Revisited* where the narrator and Rex Morran go to a great restaurant will not need warning of the huge brass balloons. In the book, the whole passage is admirable advice as to how — and how not — to drink brandy. Goldfish bowl glasses over-ate the spirit, the idiotic "warmers" risk a scorched hand and dissipate the aroma of the spirit before it can reach the nose. A brandy glass, able to be cupped in the palm, is the right size and most people's hands are the right temperature to warm the brandy gently so as to release its delectable smell.

Meanwhile, lure yourself to the post-Christmas period when, having paid some of the bills, you can give yourself a present. Richard Kibb's shop at 164 Regent's Park Road, NW1, is a specialist in wine accessories, including antiques. Shapland, 207 High Holborn, WC1, specializes in antique silver; staff are always helpful in tracking down some individual piece needed for a commemorative presentation, anniversary or, maybe, a spring wedding.

What is one person's expensive buy may be someone else's bargain, but here are some wines definitely in the fine category for New Year special occasions.

The odd Jura wine, Chateau Chalon, from a region, not an estate, from the Sauvignon grape, it is a vin jaune, made in a curious way, staying long in cask, wherein a veil forms on the surface. It was because he was a native of the area that Pasteur knew of it and formed the notion about the working of bacteria.

This yellow wine is vaguely reminiscent of sherry, assertive and full, something of a heavy-weight and, usefully, one of the few wines that can be served immediately after champagne without suffering by the comparison. Use it as an aperitif or with first courses that would swamp a delicate wine; any dregs are wonderful in cooking. (£10.84)

A Mosel as heavenly as its name is J. I. Froem's Graciele Riesling Auslese 1975, the gentle, sunny style with the underlying touch of special ripeness and lingering elegance being as once aristocratic and beguiling. This is a bottle to brooch

on a wet morning and sip — in a smoke-free atmosphere, away from any food — until you understand why certain German wines, from a few great makers, are among the finest in the world. This would be a beautiful drink to share with a beginner — he would never forget what this type of wine ought to be like, and, alas, cannot always be. (£7.42 from O. W. Leach, 21 Jermyn Street, SW1.) I would not try to serve it with a meal although you could make it a conversation piece — with choice dessert fruit (no citrus or pineapple) or with lightly flavoured sponge cakes or biscuits at the end of a meal.

La Mission Haut Brion is one of the great estates producing red Graves that is revered by devotees of claret. In the suburbs of Bordeaux (part of the property is in Pessac, part in Talence), La Mission wines have a silky, close-knit, reserved charm, less obvious than Haut Brion but no less excellent. They are glorious wines for fine gamebirds (you might lay down a bottle for next autumn), lamb (spring is coming), free-range roast chicken, plainly cooked.

Findlater's (32 Wigmore Street, W1) have a range of

vintages that is alluring — and why do we have to wait for them until we are privileged to taste (or at least serve and sample on the side) great wines in The Great Tasting Room in the Sky? Nearly all, beginning at 1929, cost double figures per bottle — the 1953, which I remember as wonderful as the tasting notes describe, costing £51.86. You might daily with the 1971 (£18.74), put away the 1970 (£21.85) or arrange for the 1978 (£17.94) to be bought for a turn-of-the-century birthday.

Findlater's also have a tempting range of the white La Mission Haut Brion, owned by the same people as La Mission. These are also in double figures, albeit a little more modestly. And before anyone reproaches me for citing such wines, masterpieces of the wine maker, at a kind of hardship and austerity for many, let it be firmly established: there is a reason why some wines command high prices, there is the ability of some people to afford what they really want.

Any of these bottles will demonstrate why they are great, and, if you pour carefully, one will provide six or even eight friends with an unforgettable experience.

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

A precisely transmitted message

The draw for the third round of the Gold Cup contained some matches which seemed as uneven as David clash with Goliath, but over-confident giants have often discovered that underestimated opponents can display a disturbing accuracy with the sting. With this in mind, I watched my team, captained by Robert Sheehan, play the first eight boards against a young team led by D. Muller. By a strange coincidence, the heart suit played a critical role in three hands. This was the first:

Sheehan v Muller. Gold Cup third round. East-West game. Dealer East.

W N E S
24 20 No 14
Double 40 40
No 50 No 50

Opening lead OK

The 2NT overall of INT is the classical bid to introduce a powerful two-suiter. On some hands the disparate quality of the two suits might have influenced Sheehan to select another approach, but here he calculated that by bidding spades before hearts he could transmit the message precisely.

Rose's choice of rebid is instructive. If, against all expectations, Sheehan's second suit had been diamonds, Rose's hand would justify a forward move. As the bidding went, Rose was the first to admit that he should have bid the lam. Sheehan had carried the bidding to the five

level opposite a partner who had promised no more than a yarrowbough with three small hearts. In an excellent example of reappraising a weak hand in the light of partner's very powerful bidding.

The play was straightforward. Rose ruffed the lead in dummy, ruffed his hand with spade ruff, and finessed the Q. After ruffing a second spade in hand he crossed to dummy with the A, drew a second round of trumps and made 12 tricks.

This was the very next board, with the players in the same positions.

Game All. Dealer North.

W N E S
24 20 No 14
Double 40 40
No 50 No 50

The auction contains a number of interesting points. Rose's decision to rebid his hearts despite his minimum opening bid was eminently correct.

Playing a five-card major system, he promised a six-card heart suit, information which could be invaluable to his partner if the bidding became competitive. Sheehan's four clubs, a jump cue bid in the opponent's suit, showed a void and Rose, by bidding a four diamond, showed a diamond control, but denied first or second round club control.

Sheehan's four hearts was restrained but would have won well if Rose had continued with four spades. Instead Rose probed with a non-conventional 4NT, and

subsidized when Sheehan showed the 9A. The sequence made me think of the athletic figure who climbs to the top of the high diving board only to decide that he would prefer a gentle swim. Rose had no difficulty making 12 tricks.

Painfully calculating the loss of two missed slams, I watched our opponents rack the next tricky deal.

Love All. Dealer West.

W N E S
24 20 No 14
Double 40 40
No 50 No 50

Sheehan's bounce to three spades was well timed. If he had wished to show a raise based on sound values, he would have cue bid, or even doubled NT. East's bid of four diamonds was surely imprudent. The more the bidding continued, the worse his hand became. West reasonably concluded that his partner was showing the 9A and a fit for one of his suits.

The defence was good. The queen is the right card to lead when the strength in the suit is known to be on your left. Muller played low from dummy and ruffed in hand. He successfully finessed the Q and continued with a heart, covering South's 9S with the 9H, which held the trick. In the hope that South had the VK, Muller returned to dummy with the 9A to repeat the heart finesse. Rose unkindly produced the VK and Muller had

to content with nine tricks.

Even with the solace of that board, I was considerably relieved to discover that our opponents had missed both the slams, our team beating Duncan and Silverstone had played a flawless game, and we had gained 21 IMPs.

Confident that the match was in safe keeping, I went to watch the final stages of the international trials to select England's representatives for the Camrose Cup. Here the game had been falling at a rate which would have left Broddington underpopulated. Teams containing Collins, Sowter and Lodge had been eliminated, apparently leaving the way clear for the consistent northern quartet of Forrester, Brock, Kirby and Armstrong. But the favourites displayed the lack of zest normally associated with any short-priced horse that I support. Senior and Ray, Pomeroy and Huggitt emerged as clear victors.

As one of the defeated players put it discomfitedly, "The winners won strictly on leaving the way clear for the rest were deservingly joint bottom." Senior and Ray, who made an excellent impression, will be playing in their first Camrose match.

Later, I telephoned Sheehan to learn the result of our match. "It was close," he reported. "Thanks in part to an unlucky slam by 2M Mahmood (the sixth member of our team), with eight boards to play we led by a mere 14 IMPs. However, we did manage to win by 40 IMPs in the end."

Anything newsworthy in the result? I asked. "No," Sheehan replied laconically, "it exactly fulfilled Zia's definition of an unlucky slam. No two top losers, ten tricks to start with, but despite all wizardry only eleven in the end."

The Times Cook
Shona Crawford Poole
Nutty ideas

Nutcrackers must be the most seldom used piece of domestic equipment that virtually every household owns. As often as not they make an annual bow with the ritual bowl of Christmas nuts, then work their way back down to the bottom of whichever drawer is a repository for forgotten things that seem to come in as handy as they might.

Whether this shows how little nuts are used in most kitchens or only that every one buys them shelled now, the fact is that you do not see many on sale in their natural state except in December.

Almonds have numerous traditional Christmas roles around the world. Apart from marzipan and all those continental European cakes and biscuits, there is turron, the nougat of the Spanish speaking world, almond soup in Spain itself, and the single good-hack almond in nordic rice puddings.

Hazel nuts are my favourite for flavour, and they make a marvellous moist cake which includes no flour. I came across another delicious use for them recently at the Castle Hotel in Tamworth. The chef there is John Hornsby, who was previously executive sous chef at The Dorchester under Lord Astor.

One of the dishes he served in the course of beautifully cooked surprise menu dinner was grilled goats cheese with radicchio, slivers of apple, toasted hazel nuts and an unusual vinaigrette. It was served in place of the traditional cheeseboard, and words cannot do it justice.

For domestic cooks, of course, cheese is usually the one course that is really simple and requires no cooking. But the recipe seems to me to be more versatile than that, and I would think of serving it as a first course or as an alternative to pudding.

For the filling:

225 g (8 oz) shelled hazel nuts, unblanched
8 large eggs, separated
285 g (10 oz) caster sugar

For the filling:

300 ml (½ pint) double cream
4 tablespoons chocolate and hazel nut spread
icing sugar to dust

Using a coffee grinder or liquidizer, grind the nuts finely as possible without reducing them to a paste. Whisk the egg whites until they are stiff. In another bowl, whisk the egg yolks with the sugar until the mixture falls from the whisk in ribbons.

Fold the nutmeg and nuts lightly into the egg yolk mixture and divide it between two lightly greased 25 cm (10 in) sandwich tins. Bake in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 35 minutes. Test by pressing gently with a finger. The cakes are ready when the pressure leaves no impression.

Cool the cakes for their tins for 10 minutes before turning them out to a wire rack. When they are quite cold, sandwich them together with whipped cream mixed with the chocolate and hazel nut spread. Dust the top with icing sugar just before serving.

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 teaspoon very finely chopped shallot

Try to find one of the small drum or log shaped semi-dried goats' cheeses sold widely. Ideally the diameter of the cheese should be about 1½ to

مکان الهم

Travel/Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Washington/Anthony Holden Spell of the capital

As Voltaire didn't say: I've always opposed Concorde politically, but I'll defend to the death my right to fly in it. Especially if it's taking me to Washington.

Only businessmen, I suppose, and others on vast corporate expenses, plus the odd film star, pop star, rich man or thief, can afford this extraordinary fantasy: across the Atlantic in under four hours, stepping off fresh enough to renegotiate Salt 2. I arrived so quickly my wife was an hour late arriving from downtown Washington to pick me up. And I had just called her (free) from the Concorde lounge at Heathrow.

No jet-lag. The only side-effect, in either direction, is drunkenness, so eager are British Airways to play the fortunate few with that heady brand of Champagne they serve in the upper ether. It's the nearest, I guess, I'll ever get to heaven.

As is, I insist on adding, the destination. British tourists are just plain dumb about Washington - Concorde travellers, of course, are too busy locked up in meetings to look around themselves - but it must rank as the world's most underrated city. As the new generation of cut-rate transatlantic wanderers gazes at New York City with a wild surmise, turns Miami Beach into Torremolinos out of Blackpool, succumbs to the mental torpor of the West Coast, the nation's capital goes neglected. Yet it is perhaps the most beautiful in the land.

There are no skyscrapers: a local ordinance decrees that no building may exceed in height the dome of the US Capitol. Its vast white marble palaces enclose a majesty unrivalled since Ancient Rome - to which, at the time of Reagan's inauguration last January, it bore an uneasy resemblance. All earthly power is here.

You can sniff power in the air as you traipse the great federal quadrangle from the Capitol to the Pentagon, from the State Department to the White House, the only residence of a head of state throughout the free world.

Boxing day travel

British Rail's decision to run no trains in England and Wales on Boxing Day may seriously inconvenience thousands of sun seekers and skiers whose holidays begin or end on December 26th.

Holidaymakers relying on public transport between London and Gatwick have only one choice, the Green Line coach service. Coaches will leave Victoria hourly from 6.10 am to 9.10 pm. The journey costs £1.80.

London Underground services on Boxing Day are limited, and many stations will be closed for the day. Services will not begin until between 9.30 am and 10 am, depending on the line, but the Heathrow airport link with central London will be operating.

London Transport's Airbus services from central London to Heathrow will be running at 40 minute intervals from 6.40 am to 9.30 pm. There are pick-up points at Victoria and Paddington and the journey costs £2.

Holidaymakers who use their own cars will face charges of up to £35 for two weeks in airport car parks. Parking in the multi-storey parks adjoining the terminal at Gatwick costs £3.50 per day for the first five days, and £1.75 per day thereafter. Gatwick's open air long-term car park, with free shuttle bus to the terminal, costs £1.75 per day. Heathrow's long term car park costs £2.30 per day. Glasgow's £1.80.

None of the main tour operators is reporting cancellations caused by Boxing Day transport difficulties, but most have received requests for advice on how to get to airports. John Morgan has already sent advice on alternatives to rail travel to skiers travelling with the firm on Boxing Day.

If previous years are anything to go by, taxis and hire cars over the Christmas holidays may be few and far between, so travellers should check the availability of public services for their journeys or make reliable alternative arrangements.

S. C. P.

Flying East/Derek Harris Cheap fares trial

Cheap airline tickets, hitherto available largely through the discount agency outlets known as "bucket shops," go on sale in high street travel agents from Monday.

Seven Far East destinations, including Tokyo and Singapore, are involved after a deal between British Airways and the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). ABTA had long been trying to get a slice of the discount action for all its members and British Airways finally agreed last month to place what it described as a considerable number of discounted tickets their way for an experimental three-month period starting on January 1.

How big a supply of tickets actually becomes available remains to be seen since the number will vary from day to day and route to route.

There is also the question of which type of traveller will be attracted to the tickets. These tickets are bookable only a fortnight before departure and most holidaymakers or those visiting friends and relatives usually want to book well in advance.

Yet business travellers may be put off by the inflexibility of the discounted tickets: cancellation of a booking, even if it is only to vary the date, involves heavy charges. The tickets allow for no stopovers.

But the discounted tickets are cheaper, if only marginally in some cases, compared with advanced passenger excursion tickets (APEX) where these are available.

APEX offers tend to be seasonal, involve a minimum stay of 14 days and have to be booked a month in advance. The question is how will the discount offers compare with "bucket shop" prices and sound specialists in Far East travel? First offers from the regular travel agents are now emerging and comparisons can start to be made.

The destinations involved in the British Airways-ABTA deal are: Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Osaka, Singapore and Tokyo. Hongkong does not feature in the deal for the obvious reason that low-price tickets are already readily available through travel agents since the British Government moved to an "open skies" policy on this route last year.

The APEX fare to Hongkong, for instance, is running at about £480. Yet to Tokyo the full IATA economy fare is £1,577. But via Hongkong the cost on normal tickets can be £700 or less using this low-fare gateway to destinations along the Pacific rim from Japan to Australia.

Lunn Poly, one of the bigger travel agency chains in the high street, has produced its price list for the British Airways discount fares and Tokyo will cost £615. That is a better than 60 per cent saving on the IATA tariff.

The other Lunn Poly fares on offer are: Bangkok, £374; Jakarta, £429; Kuala Lumpur, £429; Manila, £407; Osaka, £615; Singapore, £429.

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Winter holiday discount news

There is plenty of discount action on the ski scene this week, and winter sun reductions are increasing. Penurious sunshine seekers who want to book winter or summer holidays now may like to take advantage of Olympic Holidays reduced booking deposit. Until the end of December the deposit is reduced from £25 to £5.

Skiing offers in addition to the discounted holidays mentioned in the table include new deals from John Morgan and Club Mark Warner. Discounts of between £40 and £75 on all ski-drive chalet holidays from John Morgan are available for the week beginning December 19. In Meribel, Courchevel, Megeve, Argentiere and La Plagne.

In Val d'Isere, Meribel, Courchevel and Verbier, Club Mark Warner have discounts of up to £75 on one week holidays and £90 on two weeks throughout January.

The first of the January discounts for winter sun and snow are now beginning to appear. Many tour operators have not yet announced January discounts so there should be more to come.

S. C. P.

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Saving	Conditions
SKING					
Morgins, Switzerland	7 b&b	Global	£135	£20	Dec 19
Livigno, Italy	7 h/b	Global	£119	£40	Dec 19
Soll, Austria	7 b&b	Global	£125	£20	Dec 19
Madesimo, Italy	14 h/b	Skiscene	£164/201	£20	Jan 16, also Luton
Madagnaga, Italy	14 h/b	Skiscene	£159	£20	Jan 16, also Luton
Meribel, France	7 i/b	Ski Sunburst	£153	£40	Dec 19
Verbier, Switzerland	7 i/b	Ski Sunburst	£143	£40	Dec 19
Val d'Isere, France	7 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£109	£100	Dec 19
Val d'Aure, France	7 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£159	£80	Dec 26
Meribel	7 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£159	£90	Dec 26
Courchevel, France	7 i/b	Ski 3V	£215	£44	Dec 19
Les Arcs, France	14 s/c	Erna Low	£254	£75	Dec 19, Heathrow
Flaine, France	14 i/b	Erna Low	£422	£60	Dec 19, Heathrow
Meribel	7 i/b	Snowtime	£145	£80	Dec 19
Andorra	7 b&b	Young World	£129	£20	Dec 19, coach from London
Bardonecchia, Italy	7/14 s/c	Thomson	£75/99	£30	Dec 5 Jan, also Luton, Manchester & Glasgow
Meribel	7 i/b	Ski MacG	£189	£50	Dec 19
Meribel	7 i/b	Ski MacG	£199	£25	Jan 2
WINTER SUN					
St. Lucia, Caribbean	7 s/c, h/b	Pegasus	£386/638	£150	Jan 2, Luton
St. Lucia	21 s/c, h/b	Pegasus	£495/1,252	£75	Jan 9, Luton
Portugal	7	Silair	£89	£71	Dec 13, fly-drive
Tunisia	7 i/b	Thomson	£99	£59	Dec 17, Luton
Malta	4 h/b	Thomson	£109	£45	Dec 18, Manchester
Majorca	3 h/b	Thomson	£89	£32	Dec 18, Glasgow
Algarve	7/14 h/b	Thomas Cook	£110/154	£20	Jan 10, Manchester
Malta	14 h/b	Portland	£130	£114	Dec 18, Luton
Majorca	7 i/b	Portland	£129	£33	Dec 19
Tunisia	7 i/b	Portland	£129	£53	Dec 19
Madeira	14 b&b	Tjareborg	£191	£50	Jan 3 & 10
Malta	7 s/c	Tjareborg	£109	£57	Dec 19
Algarve	7 b&b	Tjareborg	£92	£32	Jan 10 & 17

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. *May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111, Tjareborg telephone 01-499 8676 and 061-235 9511.

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Today could be the first of a 15-day countdown to zero for the International Year of Disabled People. Instead it is the beginning of a 10-year plan spearheaded by a team called the Snowdon Council, with Lord Snowdon as its president.

The formation of the Council is the first move in a Plan for Action developed by Sir Christopher Aston, and it will involve first the heads of the leading national disability authorities. Among them will be the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, Mencap (for the mentally handicapped), ASBA (Spina-Association), the Spastics Society, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. Smaller organizations will also be asked to contribute and become associate members.

The aims set out in the 10-year plan are to continue with the education programme started by the IYDP but also to be more precise in defining specific goals and monitoring their achievement.

"The success of the year has been that attitudes to disabled people are better now than at the beginning. The failure is the lack of planning in the initial stages", says Sir Christopher.

"I was appointed chairman in June 1980 and within three months I was found to have cancer, so I was away until January and not

able to do the amount of planning needed. In the autumn of 1980 we should have drawn up a complete list of the things we wanted to achieve and we should have kept an eye on their progress. That's my admission of failure."

The type of achievement Sir Christopher would like to have seen during 1981 is the elimination of German measles which, when caught in pregnancy, invariably leads to the birth of a disabled child. Immunization is available but not universally applied, and this should have been an aim.

His plan for the future includes the following points:

Beryl Downing's Shoparound FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

To complement this week's Christmas shopping list for disabled people, Sir Christopher Aston, chairman of the IYDP committee, has given Shoparound an exclusive preview of his Action Plan for the next ten years

A great year, a great plan

● The reduction of road accidents (one of the main causes of spinal injuries) by — among other things — restrictions on motor cycles and stricter seat belt legislation.

● Removing mentally handicapped and temporarily mentally ill people from hospitals to their own homes, where appropriate, or to form small groups in every community.

● The rehabilitation after disability of physically handicapped people by involving them in sport and providing work opportunities.

● Bringing together large charity organizations, which in the past tended to work independently.

● The creation of a back-up staff to follow through the plan in two five-year stages.

● Seeking new ways to help eliminate disabling diseases in the Third World.

Sir Christopher has already been offered official money for his plan, but he does not wish to be beholden to government. Indeed, he would like to see the appointment of an independent person directly responsible to the head of government, so that recommendations for action can be made in urgent areas. He is seeking funds from big business and has already been promised £35,000, with the

possibility of a further similar sum.

Sadly, the Aston Plan for Action has been conceived from Sir Christopher's hospital bed. Cancer was again diagnosed in June this year and he has been forced to spend one week in every three in hospital. He simply says, "Cancer made me ill and prevented me from planning in the beginning. Now the second bout has made amends by giving me time to think."

His immense courage and positive planning could be regarded as a symbol of the spirit shown this year and every year by many thousands of handicapped people.

Chess/Harry Golombek

Two sides of the coin

We have become used to the political factor in chess, but the commercial factor is comparatively new. When first introduced, it seemed deceptively innocuous and even welcome in view of FIDE's precarious finances.

For example, delegates to FIDE's last conference at Adana were enthusiastic over a deal with a Hong Kong firm which will pay nearly £400,000 over five years in return for a FIDE's endorsement of its chess playing machines.

But then two programmers of chess computers brought in a motion for a team of computers to compete in the next chess Olympiad at Lucerne in 1982. It was rather as if, in the early days of the motor car, Henry Ford had obtained an endorsement from the Olympics committee and then asked if his machines could compete in the mile and the marathon.

We defeated the proposition, but not completely. A commission has been formed to investigate the possibility, and one of the

programmers who came up with the idea will be involved. Not all commercial motives are reprehensible. In fact the application of the Swiss system, by which congresses of large numbers of competitors can be held in a brief space of time, has proved commercially profitable and helped make the game more popular.

The latest event to show the Swiss system's wealth of management ideas is the Latvian International Tournament, held at the Catford Club in south London.

It ended last Sunday in a clear victory for the 1980 Midland Counties champion, Mark Hebden, with the fine score of 7½ out of 9. He was a full point ahead of the talented Finnish grandmaster Westerman and would appear to be another addition to that fine phalanx of impressive young players that is pushing Britain into the forefront of international chess.

Equally striking is the progress of the under-16 world champion, Stuart Conquest, who came third

with 6 points, ahead of a grandmaster and a number of international masters. Appropriately he comes from that perennial centre of chess and chess players, Hastings. Another player who did well was the Streatham champion, Nigel Povah, who, in attaining the international master norm for the third time also gained the title.

A good example of Hebden's impressive style of play is this game from the second round in which he envelopes his opponent's play like a boa constrictor.

White: Hebden. Black: Fedorovitch. Sicilian Defence.

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AIDS

Board and bread: a gift suggestion

"How did I ever manage without it?" is the equivalent of star rating in anybody's Good Gift Guide — and as difficult to achieve as crossed knives and forks in a British Michelin. How much more important is that response when the person on your present list is disabled.

Special equipment designed for physically handicapped people may not win points for glamour — and not for a moment would I suggest that disabled people would not also enjoy frivolous, pretty, extravagant presents they would not dream of buying for themselves. But though some indispensable presents do not have to cost a lot, specially designed equipment can be very expensive and Christmas can be the excuse to offer — and accept — a gift that might not be appropriate at any other time.

In the inexpensive, good ideas category is the one-handed Warriner tray with a handle that locks into position for carrying and folds for storage. It is balanced so that it can be carried safely in one hand while the other is used for steadying or for holding a banister, and is made of stainless steel with a black plastic hand grip. In two sizes, 19½in x 9½in, £11.55 (inc p & p) and 12½in square, £16.95 (inc p & p) from Warriner, School Lane, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5RL.

A bread board with stainless steel spikes to hold slices steady while buttering costs £4.05 (45p p & p) from Homocraft Supplies, 27 Trinity Road, London, SW17 7SF (01-672 7070). Kitchen canisters and bowls in the St

Michael kitchen range are an example of good design not created specifically for disabled people, but they would appreciate the easy-grip tops and non-slip rubber bases in brown, beige, and white from larger branches of Marks and Spencer.

For fun and games — a range of puzzles to teach disabled children coordination and manipulative skills. The Abstract Pattern Jigsaw comes in varying degrees of difficulty from push-together to interlocking pieces. There are six designs, 15½in x 11½in — all abstract — and the pieces are large, robust and plastic-coated for easy wiping. £5.95 each (plus £1 p & p) or £32.10 for the set of six (£2.50 p & p) from Four to Eight, Midway House, Fitcham Industrial Estate, Evelyn Drive, Leicester LE3 2BU (0533-23353).

The same company also does giant dominoes and other toys including the Plastication Board. Illustrated left, suitable for nursery school and junior age groups, able bodied and handicapped.

For anyone of any age, an LP or cassette called *The Old Man of Llangager* is a strange Scottish story invented by the Prince of Wales for his younger brothers and narrated by Peter Ustinov in his best Highland accent. The story tells of a man whose own enjoyment of the Goons and owd quiremen. MacNish visit customers in their area and those living at a distance can be supplied on approval. Prices are from £423 for an electrically operated recliner, according to fabric, and an illustrated leaflet is available from Mike Lewis, MacNish Developments, 72 Pole Hill Rd, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 0QD (please enclose 11½p stamp).

For those considering a kitchen, Alimmo have designed one to suit the needs of any wheelchair user without making the kitchen impractical for able bodied users. Worktop heights are 34½in instead of 35½in and can be made even lower so that food can be prepared from a sitting position. Base cabinets have recesses to accommodate the wheelchair and under the sink and hob the chair to slide underneath.

Alimmo kitchens can be seen at Just Kitchens, 40 Wigmore Street, W1, and a stockist list and leaflet are available from Alimmo, Station Road, Thatcham, Nr Newbury, Berkshire.

For bed-ridden patients, a soft fleece to combat soreness from lying in one position. The washable man-made fleece allows natural evaporation, reduces friction created by moisture and has low flammability. Called Mupilex, the Sacral size, 24in x 21in, costs £15.84 (inc p & p), and the full length, 60in x 29in, £29.10 (inc p & p) from Bayer Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 1TP. They also do a red tartan fleece chair cover 45in x 20in at £13.70.

For elderly or disabled people living alone, a permanent SOS system to be worn like a wrist watch. The

miniature transmitter, when pressed with a finger or against a piece of furniture (after a fall, for instance), sends an alarm signal to a permanently manned monitoring centre. The operator telephones a pre-arranged list of relations or neighbours to tell them of the emergency, and if no help is available the police are informed. Aid-Call costs £250 plus an annual monitoring fee of £40 or can be bought at a monthly rate of £21.50. More details from Aid-Call, 15 Radnor Walk, London SW3 4BP (01-352 2822).

More new technology is available in the form of micro computers to make it easier for disabled people to communicate with others. A list of 500 computer aids dealing with many forms of disability is available from Miss H. Lowley, of DEARS, 117 Wickham Chase, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0BQ (01-777 7560). Please send an SAE.

For sitting comfortably, a reclining chair with an electric adaptation so that those with minimum mobility can change their position independently. Some are operated by a simple push button or, for those unable to use their hands, a head movement or mouth control. The chairs are recliners made by Parker Knoll — the Norton, Nilmod and Brandon models — and the adapting is done by MacNish Developments of Uxbridge.

For those unable to use their hands, a head movement or mouth control. The chairs are recliners made by Parker Knoll — the Norton, Nilmod and Brandon models — and the adapting is done by MacNish Developments of Uxbridge.

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□ The Tripp Trapp high chair, designed in Norway, is now available with a high back and strong front rail for handicapped children. The chair, in kit form, costs £48, with the standard narrow rail, plus £18 for the high back and rail. On view at the Back Care Chair Company, Shelleys, South Chalfont, near Lewes, East Sussex, TN23-400 7201 who will send it by mail. Also to be seen at Newton Aids Ltd, Salisbury.

□ Discrimination Boards are puzzles with easy-to-handle pieces printed with designs of varying difficulty to teach colour recognition and manipulative skills. In 19in x 9½in wooden trays, £5.90 each (plus £1 p & p) or £19.80 the set of four (plus £2 p & p) from Four to Eight.



The Aid-Call emergency alarm.



Reclining chair by Parker Knoll with electric control fitted by MacNish.

Dunoon Mugs



The perfect gift!
Available from all leading stores.
Dunoon Ceramics Ltd.
Hamilton Street,
Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 7RG

BOOKS

Sixty easy ways to help

Among the many specialist books published this year have been several immensely helpful practical guides with a wide appeal. Here are four of the best for your consideration:

Easy to Make Aids for Your Handicapped Child by Don Caston. The author is the lecturer in charge of the Handicapped Education and Aids Research unit in the City of London Polytechnic and his aim was to get away from the stereotype of commercially made aids by producing designs which would help the child's mobility and would be within the scope of the unskilled parent who is just a "kitchen table carpenter".

There are 60 designs for aids ranging from chairs and trolleys to walkers and climbing frames, and there is advice on using the tools, buying wood and measuring the child. 66.95 hardback, £4.95 paperback (add £1 p & p on each) from Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3PA. Names of stockists from their trade department at 01-580 9307.

Books for handicapped youngsters about other disabled youngsters are listed in a pamphlet called *Count Me In*

by the Library Association Youth Libraries Group. The compiler, Margaret Smyth, notes that since Clara was cured in *Held*, first published in 1880, disabled fictional characters are no longer just classified as "crippled" and authors write about many kinds of disabilities such as autism and epilepsy with a minimum of sentimentality, and a cheerful optimism honestly devoid of miracle cures.

The stories are chosen for their credibility so that youngsters in similar circumstances will be able to identify with the characters. The list indicates the appropriate age group for each book plus the disability featured. *Count Me In* is available for £1.20 from Maggie Norwood, Inner Ring Zone office, Central Library, Birmingham, B3 3HQ, 021-2354244.

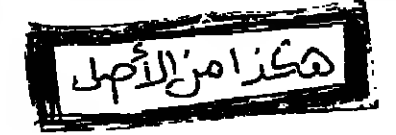
Cooking Made Easy for Disabled People by Audrey Ellis is Sainsbury's contribution to IYDP, produced in association with the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation. Anne Davies, who has had multiple sclerosis for 19 years, tested equipment and recipes with

Audrey and their combined efforts have produced many suggestions and simplified techniques which will be helpful for a wide range of physical disabilities. The booklet includes notes on kitchen layout and useful equipment as well as recipes and is a worthwhile 30p from branches of Sainsbury or (plus 15p p & p) from J. Sainsbury Ltd, Stamford House, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LL.

Clothes for Disabled People by Maureen Goldsworthy is approved by the Disabled Living Foundation and is the most recent of the specialized publications. It opens with a list of disabling conditions, describes the kinds of clothing needed by each group and proceeds with helpful and well illustrated advice on adapting bought clothes, making your own and adapting patterns to individual requirements — always bearing in mind that all clothes should look just the same as those in the shops and should show off the wearer's good points and conceal the disability. A well conceived and well executed book by Batsford, £4.95 — stockists from Batsford Publicity department, 01-486 8484.



Illustration by Quentin Blake from "What Difference does it make, Danny?" by Helen Young, £3.25 Andre Deutsch — one of the books for 9-12 year old epileptic children listed in Count Me In.



Stock Exchange Prices

Little interest

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 7. Dealings End, Dec 22. Contango Day, Dec 23. Settlement Day, Jan 4.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Personal
finance,
pages 18 and 19

Business News

THE TIMES Saturday December 12 1981

Solve your gift problems fast
VICTORIA WINE
CHRISTMAS GIFT TOKENS
Exchangeable at over 900 shops nationwide

Job cuts at British Steel delayed

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Plans by the British Steel Corporation to cut its labour force to around 92,000 by next summer, as part of its strategy for restoring profitability, have been knocked back. Instead of achieving the slim-down by July next year, a new target for completing the "manning reductions" has now been set back to March 1983, the end of the corporation's next financial year.

The slippage follows a submission by each of the corporation's business centres of the manning reductions which they expect to be able to complete by next July. These have fallen short of the cuts originally envisaged by Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman, and his board colleagues. The corporation has now begun drawing up a timetable for the further job reductions beyond next July.

Under agreements already negotiated, BSC's total workforce will shrink to 106,000 by the end of this year. Subject to discussions with unions, a further 9,000 jobs are scheduled to be shed by July next year with the negotiations tied to jump-start bonus schemes at plant level.

The biggest cuts in this phase, affecting 3,000 workers, will take place at all levels throughout BSC's scrap mill operation with jobs going at Port Talbot, Llanwern, Ravenscraig at Motherwell, Llanishyllide, Shotton and in the Welsh tinplate operations.

A further 2,500 workers employed by BSC Holdings and in works in the Sheffield area will also lose their jobs. The balance of the 9,000 will involve the shedding of 2,000 jobs on Teesside, 1,000 at Scunthorpe and a further 500 among head office staff.

But to reach the target level of 92,400, a further 4,500 jobs will have to be axed. A huge demanning operation which has already been implemented, coupled with optimising plant capacity has led to significant improvement in productivity at BSC's plant which now compares favourably with levels achieved among some of the best European steelmakers.

Mr MacGregor remains committed to maintaining BSC's annual capacity at 14.4m tonnes a year.

BSC, which last year lost a record £568m, is on target for cutting losses this year to slightly more than £300m.

Discussions are continuing with the Government on the BSC's latest corporate plan. The corporation is seeking an extra £30m for its External Financing Limit for next year above the £350m provisionally allocated by the Government for 1982/83 and that extra sum clearly reflects in part the slippage in the timetable for jobs cuts.

A full-scale trade war in steel could result from complaints about European carbon steel exports to the United States, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday. He told an International Steel Trade Association lunch that patience and flexibility were required, and he hoped that talks being held in Brussels between the United States and the EEC Commission would bring a solution.

Pressure on pound as US interest rates rise

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

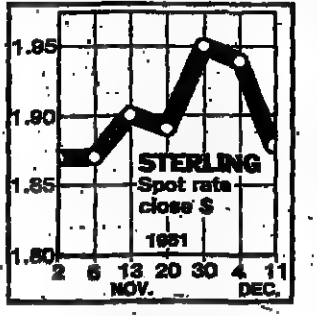
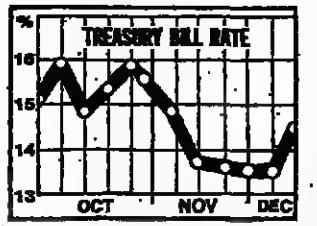
Fresh rises in dollar interest rates yesterday put renewed downward pressure on the pound, led to a sharp rise in interest rates in the London money markets, and raised fears that the next move in bank base rates might be upwards rather than down.

At present, there seems no danger that base rates will rise again as both Government and banks would be loathe to see such a development.

Although the Bank of England allowed its sterling rates on longer dated bills to rise marginally yesterday, it kept a firm grip on very short-term interest rates, they key rates for determining how the banks set their base rates.

The general expectation is that the authorities will continue to pursue this type of policy at least for the time being, giving way only if it became clear that the upward market pressure on interest rates was likely to prove more than temporary.

A great deal, therefore, depends on how much further dollar interest rates rise, and the extent to which downward pressure on oil prices and domestic labour problems weaken sentiment towards sterling.



The United Kingdom authorities would certainly allow interest rates to rise if sterling were driven down towards the \$1.80 level. This is because of the inflationary impact a sharply falling pound would have by pushing up the costs of imports.

Yesterday, the pound fell a

further 1.3 cents to \$1.8805 in London trading, bringing the fall on the week to 6.15 cents. The pound's index against other currencies fell 0.5 to 89.8 yesterday, a drop of 2.1 since last Friday.

By contrast the dollar continued in demand, rising 88 points against the West German currency to DM2.2580, a rise of 3.38 pence on the week. The three-month Eurodollar rate, 12 1/2 per cent a week ago, traded up to 13 1/2 per cent yesterday.

The main fear in London is that should interest rates have to rise again, precedent suggest that they will not go up by just the half point that they have recently been cut.

At yesterday's weekly tender for Treasury bills, the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted jumped from 13.76 to 14.58 per cent. Period rates in the money markets were also higher, with the three-month interbank rate touching 15 1/2 per cent.

The uncertainty over the currency and interest rate situation was also reflected in the stock market. Government stocks ended a poor week with further falls of up to 1/2 of a point. The FT share index closed 53.3 points lower at 520.2, a drop of 9.1 over the week.

Lomrho to see OFT on Fraser assurances

By Philip Robinson

Lomrho is due to meet the Office of Fair Trading early next week to discuss the kind of undertakings it is to give to the Government over the House of Fraser stores group, which owns Harrods.

On Wednesday, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, accepted a Monopolies Commission report that Lomrho's takeover of Fraser would be against the public interest. He said the OFT was seeking assurances from Lomrho that its acquisition would not proceed.

But sudden share buying in the stock market on Thursday, when brokers Laurie Milbank bid for 7 million Fraser shares and sent the price to 180p fired Whitehall into preparing a Parliamentary Order requiring Lomrho to obey the Government's takeover veto.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lomrho director, said last night: "I have spoken to the OFT today and we are due to meet early next week."

Lomrho is not allowed to buy more Fraser shares, but may vary its existing 30 per cent stake. Mr Biffen has the power to make it sell any shares bought after his decision on the takeover. Lomrho has denied that it is buying anyway.



Rowland: Lomrho may retain 30 per cent Fraser stake

Opec agrees to trim oil price

From Michael Prest
Abu Dhabi, Dec 11

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries tonight agreed to trim their crude oil prices for the second time this year. Heating oil is likely to be slightly cheaper, but petrol prices will be little affected.

Most reductions, if ratified, will be effective from January 1, 1982. The changes will effect medium and heavy crude oils from which heating and fuel oils are refined. However, the Saudi Arabian light market crude price of \$34 a barrel will not change.

One possible outcome of these changes is that North Sea prices will have to be adjusted in line with their new Opec prices. British North Sea prices are \$36.50 a barrel and Norwegian prices range from \$37 to \$37.50. British North Sea prices were put up after the last Opec meeting. If adjustments are made it seems more likely that Norwegian prices will have to come down a bit.

Today's agreement is important evidence of Opec's ability to remain united while reducing prices to meet a fall in demand. Shalek Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister said: "Opec again proved to be a responsible organization both for its members and for the world."

The full outcome of tonight's discussions may not be known until the North African producers—Libya and Algeria—decide on what to charge for their light crude. Under today's agreement they can ask between \$37 and \$38 for each 35-gallon barrel. They are currently charging \$37.50 whereas Nigeria is asking \$1 less for the same quality of crude. Light oils are especially suited to refining into petrol.

Shalek Yamani thought other oil producers, like Mexico, Malaysia, African countries, and the North Sea might have to follow suit and reduce their prices.

Board hostility to Kissin bid

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A large number of the Guinness Peat group board are believed to have affirmed their support for Mr Edmund Dett, their chairman. They appear to have indicated that they would not stay with the group if Lord Kissin succeeds with a partial bid for the group, leading to the ousting of Mr Dett and a reversal of the group's financial strategy.

Although Mr Dett, the former Labour politician who was brought into the group by Lord Kissin as its successor, looks assured of comfortable majority support on the board in re-election, change from Lord Kissin, there seems to be a

growing feeling within and outside Guinness Peat that the interest of the group might eventually be best served by the departure of both men.

Lord Kissin, founder and life president of Guinness Peat, has been increasingly at odds with Mr Dett over the direction the group has been taking away from commodities into financial services. Lord Kissin's plans to bid for nearly 20 per cent of the group are being seen as a direct challenge to Mr Dett.

Guinness Peat shares rose a further 2p yesterday to 98p. Lord Kissin's partial bid will

£1.8m writ for top accountants

By Drew Johnston

Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar's hammering by the Stock Exchange last April has led to a £1.8m writ against the brokers' auditors, City accountants Ernst and Whinney.

The writ, alleging bad auditing, was filed by Mr Martin Stirling, the Stock Exchange's official assignee, who was appointed official liquidator to the firm.

The action seeks to recover the company's £1.8m losses from its dealings with Manchester stockbrokers Farrington Stead. It claims that Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar, who built up since 1979 in transactions with Farrington Stead.

European Ferries 'not in Playboy bid'

By Our Financial Staff

European Ferries, and its merchant-banking arm, Singer and Friedlander, yesterday denied that they were involved in a consortium to rival Trident Television's £17m bid for Playboy.

But the company did admit that its chairman Mr Kier Wickenden was approached three weeks ago to form a consortium, which he later dropped.

European Ferries deny any links with a consortium reported to involve Mr Peter Cadbury and Mr George Walker formed to bid for the Playboy Group.

CITY MEN CLEARED OF FRAUD

Two City businessmen were yesterday cleared at the Old Bailey of conspiring to defraud members of two Lloyd's syndicates over aircraft insurance transactions.

After a month-long trial, Mr Justice Leonard directed the jury to find Mr Christopher Moran, 33, managing director of Moran Holdings and Moran Brokers, and Mr Derek Walker, 52, an underwriter, not guilty to the charges. The two men, who had pleaded not guilty, were discharged.

Mr Walker was awarded costs of several thousand pounds but Mr Moran's request was rejected by the judge who apologized to the jurors for having to sit through a case of great complexity.

Stock Markets

FT Index 520.2 down 5.3
FT Cilt 62.73 down 0.72
FT All Share 309.58 down 3.01
Bargains 12,500

Sterling

\$ 1.8805 down 130 pts
Index 89.8 down 0.5
New York: \$1.8670

Dollar

Index 107.2 up 0.2
DM 2.2580 up 88 pts

Gold

\$411.00 up \$4
New York: \$406.70

Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/2
3 mth Euro \$ 13 1/2
6 mth Euro \$ 14 1/2

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Atlantic Resc	5p to 215p
Chrysler Int	5p to 140p
Cougar Int	5p to 80p
Country & N T	5p to 50p
Daily Mail Tel	5p to 386p
Grosvonts	27p to 493p
Lan & Prov S	5p to 455p
Millers Books	7p to 125p
Roseburgh	5p to 265p
Sotherby FS	15p to 410p
Tanjong Tin	7p to 15p
Town & City	21p to 501p
Trust Secs	5p to 305p
Tunard Eds & B	5p to 525p
Ward TW	10p to 214p

Falls

Aero & Gen	20p to 200p
Bentley Exp	8p to 359p
Restonell	7p to 323p
Butterfield Hy	7p to 223p
El Lanc Paper	5p to 465p
GRIC	8p to 754p
CRE	8p to 296p
Hammerson 'A'	10p to 620p
ICI	10p to 210p
Kodak Int	10p to 447p
Lamo	9p to 460p
RTZ	10p to 250p
Syl & Scot	6p to 250p
Tricentral	6p to 250p

Russia 'seeks \$500m loan'

The Soviet Union is seeking a \$500m loan from one of its largest single borrowings from Western banks, according to Western banking and diplomatic sources in London and Eastern Europe.

The loan would probably be used to finance industrial projects although details and terms were still unclear.

Some diplomats said Moscow had been jinking the proposed loan to Poland in their discussion with bankers.

Bankers in London and New York are treating the reports of the loan with caution. There have been no major syndicated credits to Russia since the invasion of Afghanistan two years ago which led to a sharp cut-back in lending to the Eastern block.

Franco-Soviet gas talks fail

France has failed to reach agreement with the Soviet Union on terms for the purchase of 8,000 million cubic metres of natural gas a year. After a week of talks in Paris, the two sides have decided to resume negotiations next month (Michael Parrott writes).

Factory opens

Sir Charles Villiers, former British Steel Corporation chairman, yesterday officially opened the fifty-first factory in Corby. Northants completed since the new town commission opened an office in the town in April 1980.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Mothercare-Habitat deal details soon

Details of the deal being arranged between Mothercare and Habitat are expected on Monday. The shares of both companies were suspended on Thursday, pending an announcement.

A full merger can probably be ruled out since it would attract reference to the Monopolies Commission. Six months ago, the Commission urged the Government to look more closely at take-overs in the retailing field and last month Argyl Food's bid for Linfood was referred.

The most likely outcome is for Mr Terence Couran (right), Habitat chairman, to buy part of the stake in Mothercare held by Mr Selim Zilkha, chairman. Mr Zilkha's interest is worth £16m at the suspended price of 170p.

Power demands soar

Snow and frost sent energy demands climbing towards record levels yesterday, but in spite of transport difficulties, caused few big problems for industry.

Electricity demand was up to 42,200 megawatts, close to the record daily level in 1979/80 of 44,200 megawatts, and the

Central Electricity Generating Board was happy to see demand restored in spite of the effects of the weather. High at 7,000 cubic feet, while production difficulties offshore meant that low-priority industrial consumers had to switch to other fuels.

Airline losses on all international services are expected to total \$900m (£478m) this year, according to projections made by the international air transport association. The 1981 losses were estimated at about \$650m on the North Atlantic routes alone.

Acrylic acrylic fibre for clothes, furniture and carpets will cost 15 to 20 per cent more in Britain, Monsanto announced yesterday, only two months after a price rise of 5 to 10 per cent. The company said the increasing cost of petrochemicals was the reason.

Italian sale by Exxon

The international oil companies are reducing their activities in Italy because, they say, the margins obtained on government-controlled prices of petroleum products are inadequate. Exxon's subsidiary, Esso Italiana, said yesterday it had sold its 50 per cent share in the state corporation, ENI, which already holds the other half.

Amoco, subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana, is seeking buyers for its refinery at Cremona, in the Po Valley, and its 1,100 service stations in Italy.

72 lose jobs

Seventy-two jobs were lost at Wiveliscombe, Somerset, yesterday with the closure of the kitchenware firm Tanton Vale. The firm was the town's biggest employer. It follows 23 redundancies in March during a year in which there was a £250,000 loss. The firm was taken over two years ago by Staffordshire Potteries in a £1m deal.

Cash supply up

United States money supply M-1B rose \$4,000m (£2,127m) to \$39,900m in the week ended December 2, the New York Federal Reserve Bank said.

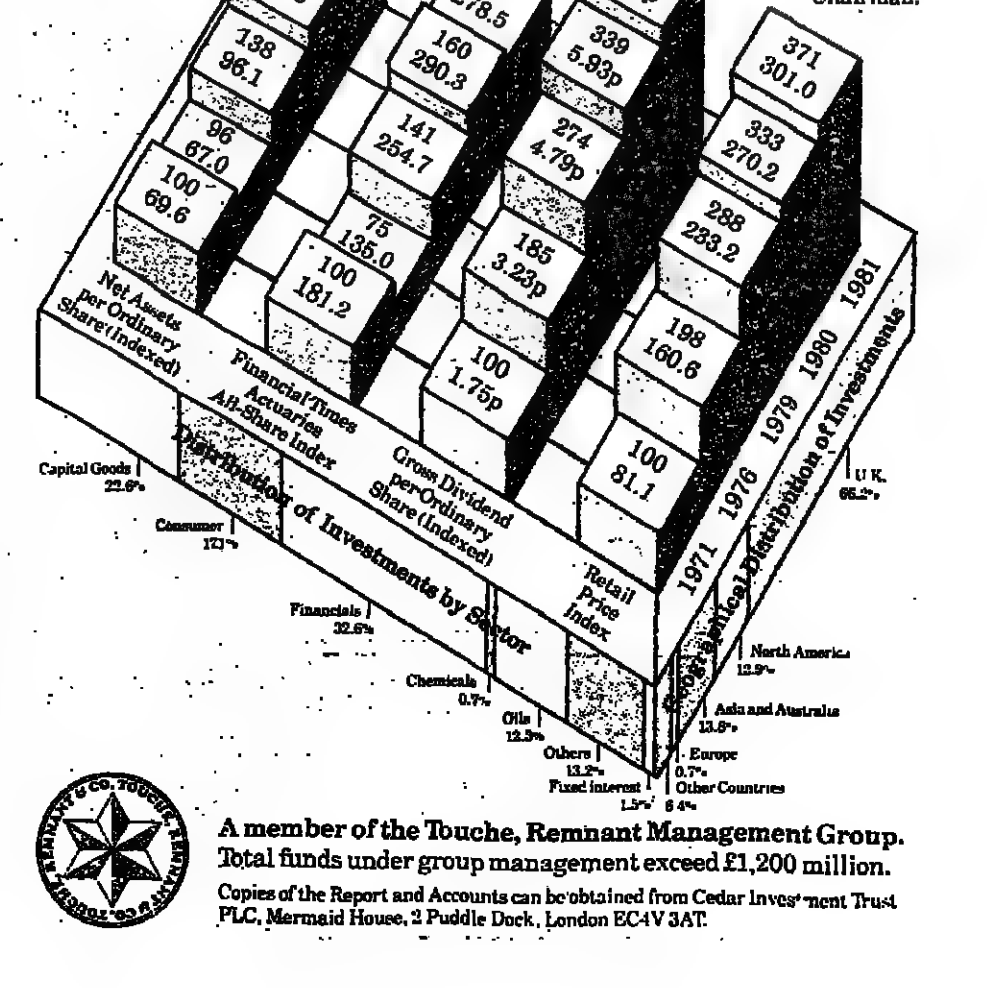
The previous week's figure was revised downward to \$43,900m from \$43,400m.

The Fed said M-2 rose \$4,600m to \$364,700m from a revised \$360,100m. The M-2 aggregate was up \$24,600m to \$1,823m in November.

CEDAR Investment Trust, PLC

Total Assets at 30th September 1981: 239.7 million.

The policy of the Board has been to provide a level of income which is as high as possible and yet which will provide for a growth in dividends at or above the prevailing rate of inflation. In this respect 1980/81 has been a reasonably successful year with a dividend increase of 10.8%.



A member of the Touche, Remnant Management Group. Total funds under group management exceed £1,200 million. Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from Cedar Investment Trust PLC, Mermaid House, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

In brief

Payout to women who leave

Lloyds Bank estimates it will have to pay out about £500,000 a year to women leaving the bank following a Court of Appeal decision. The court decided that women have the same entitlement as men to have their pension contributions refunded on their departure.

Negotiations are already underway to make the necessary alterations to the pension scheme, in the meantime an estimated 3,400 women a year are entitled to a refund.

Two women bank clerks, supported by their union, took their case for equal treatment to an Employment Appeal Tribunal in 1978. They complained that under the terms of the pension scheme men had salaries 5 per cent higher than women to take account of contributions to the pension scheme.

Men under 25 had their contributions refunded when they left the bank, while women of the same age did not. Women currently leaving the bank have to make their claim within six months of departure.

Benefits guide

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has produced a Rights Guide to non-means-tested social security benefits. The guide gives information about unemployment benefit, benefits available to the sick and disabled, retirement pension, widow's benefit, maternity benefits, and benefits paid in respect of children.

The guide aims to inform people of their rights, help them obtain due benefits and advise them on ways to appeal or challenge decisions which they feel are wrong. The information is presented in great detail and is a practical guide to both claimants and also those called upon to advise claimants.

The CPAG has also produced two leaflets entitled *Have you just lost your job?* and *On strike?*. These two leaflets give basic advice on how to claim benefits and rebates.

Leads adjustment

Leeds Permanent has decided to end differential mortgage rates for new borrowers with immediate effect and for existing borrowers from March 1982. Leeds is the last of the big five societies to adjust differential mortgage rates. The mortgage repayment rate will be 15 per cent.

Rate changed

Woodwich has agreed to remove the provision to charge negotiable higher interest rates for loans over £37,000. It was the first building society to announce the removal of its differential mortgage rate structure and will charge a single repayment mortgage rate of 15 per cent.

Medical move

From July 1982 self-employed people and their families from Britain who fall ill in EEC countries will receive medical treatment on the same basis as employed people. The estimated 1.8 million self-employed people in the United Kingdom have long complained of this form of discrimination and the DHSS is particularly pleased to be able to announce the change.



Pensioners rightly complain that their £10 Christmas bonus has not kept pace with inflation; at least they get something. Many single parents live on state benefits lower than pensions and receive nothing at all at Christmas.

Christmas cheer is distributed to these families by the National Council for One Parent Families, and a Christmas Carol concert to raise funds is being held in London at 5.30 pm on Wednesday December 16 at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden and in the piazza.

Stars and musicians from the Royal Opera House will be performing along with the children's choir of St Clement Danes School. Mulled wine and baked potatoes will be on sale and a collection will be made — though the concert itself is free. If you cannot go, donations can be sent to the National Council for One Parent Families, 255 Kentish Town Road, London NW5.

Mortgage protection

Risks of under-insurance

The recent increase in the mortgage rate from 13 per cent to 15 per cent may have left many homebuyers without adequate insurance cover for their loan.

Anyone who opted to extend the term of their loan rather than make higher repayments — and this time round the numbers taking this course of action were considerably higher than in the past — may find that their mortgage protection cover may not be sufficient to entirely repay the outstanding loan if the policy holder dies.

Guardian Royal Exchange, which offers a mortgage protection policy generally acknowledged to be one of the best in the field, points out that most contracts do not allow the homebuyer to extend the term of the policy to coincide with the extension of the term of the loan.

GRE's Homeguard policy provides cover irrespective of changes in the mortgage rate, a change of home option when you move house, mortgage extension provision and other facilities.

Most of the big societies negotiate terms with insurance companies comparable to the GRE policy to ensure that homebuyers are not underinsured — and in some cases the policies are actually underwritten by GRE. But because the societies carry the burden of administration, and sell the policies in bulk they are able to negotiate cheaper terms than the individual.

Nationwide, for example, automatically sends a quotation to any new homebuyer

who hasn't got life cover for their mortgage, and its policy provides full protection even if the term of the loan is extended (though it will not cover any arrears of mortgage repayments).

Nationwide quotes a monthly premium of £4 before tax relief for mortgage protection cover for a homebuyer aged 35 with a new £20,000 loan over 25 years. This compares very favourably with the most competitive quotes if you buy on the open market.

Equitable Life is probably the market leader in mortgage protection cover and it quotes a monthly premium of £4.12 for cover comparable to that offered by Nationwide. Most other insurance companies are more expensive.

Equitable points out though, that for very little extra a homebuyer could buy level term assurance where the sum insured remains the same throughout the life of the mortgage and the homebuyer has the option to convert all or part of the policy to a savings type contract.

The same £20,000 worth of cover over 25 years for a 35 year old costs £5.30 monthly if bought as a convertible term policy.

This seems the most sensible solution provided you can afford the slightly higher premiums. It is unlikely that any home loan would increase above the original sum borrowed so you would almost certainly be covered whatever the interest rate and whether or not you have made higher repayments with the increase in home loan rates.

On this basis there is a useful facility of being able to buy savings type cover at a later date without having to give evidence of good health.

Lorna Bourke

A little knowledge...

All points for initiative to the Hambro Life salesmen who rang this office recently, but might out of ten for expertise.

"Can I come and talk to your staff about insurance for their wives," she asked, having seen our article on the "cost" of hiring outside domestic help in the event of a wife dying. A sentence in the article had caught her eye; we revealed that less than 40 per cent of the male journalists in this office had insurance for their wives, and the Hambro salesmen had seen the possibility of some business.

"No," was the reply, "because Hambro Life term

assurances and convertible term policies are not competitive."

This seemed to stop her — but for only a moment. "How do you know?" she asked. "The best premium rates are quoted in publications such as *Money Management* and *Planned Savings* and we look them up," we replied.

This intrigued the Hambro Life salesmen who had never heard of these publications. "Which insurance companies do come into the top 10 for convertible term assurance for a woman," she asked, and we obliged with the names. "Oh dear," she said, "I want to have my life assurance with the wrong company."

Lorna Bourke

Unit trust performance

The tables show the value on December 1, 1981, of £100 invested 12 months ago (column A) and three years ago (column B), net income reinvested and based on the latest available figures, supplied by Financial Services, 150-152 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.	
FINANCIAL	A B
S&P Financial	127.8 170.7
Abbey Worldwide Bond	123.2
ST World Bond Fund	115.2
Nat West Financial	115.2 166.5
Target Financial	113.8 180.7
S&P Investment Bond	111.6
Centenary Financial	107.8 126.8
Target/Invest Trust	110.9 174.7
Britannia Fund Secs	107.0 179.6
Hill Samuel/Finnian	106.1 178.2
Britannia Prof Shares	105.8 151.2
S&P/Scottish	102.8
Abbey Investment Unit	102.6 147.2
Key Fixed Interest	102.6 103.3
Abbey Gilf & Fixed Int	102.1
Nicholson Benson Fint	101.5 167.9
M&G/Gilf	101.2
Practical	100.5 143.5
S&P Gilf & Fint Gth	100.5
Brown Shipley Fintan	100.2 174.5
James Finlay & Fint	100.0
Craigmont Gilf	99.9
Caribbean Gilf	99.5 160.3
Britannia Inv Fint Shrs	99.5 116.0
Target/Preference	99.1 116.0
Schlesinger I.T.U.	99.1 145.1
Key Fixed Interest	98.8
S&P Gilf & Fint Inc	98.8
S&P T.T.U.	98.8 154.5
Tyndall/Preference	98.7 104.7
Midland/Prudence	98.7
Hill Samuel Gilf & Fint	98.7
Tyndall Gilf Income	98.7 112.3
Target Gilf Income	98.7
Britannia Gilf	98.7 107.9
Tyndall Gilf & Fint	98.7
Henderson Gilf	98.7
Arbuthnot Gilf & Fint	98.7 114.2
Barclays Gilf & Fint	98.7 114.2
Fidelity Gilf & Fint	98.7
Gartmore Gilf	98.7
London Wall Finance	98.7 143.9
Arbuthnot Gilf & Fint	98.7 140.5
Barclays Gilf & Fint	98.7
Arbuthnot Preface	98.7 129.7
Britannia Prof Shares	98.7 92.1

GROWTH

	A	B
A-Hamro Ovr Savgs	120.1 153.3	
Barclays Recy	116.8 142.1	
Schlesinger Genl	116.5 130.2	
A-Hamro Rec Sits	115.7 157.7	
Hill Samuel Spec Sits	115.1	
Gartmore British	113.1 174.2	
Brown Shipley Gwth	113.0 178.4	
Friends Prof Units	112.7 172.7	
Target Special Sits	112.5 194.9	
Bishopsgate Prog	112.3 179.2	
Stewart British Cap	112.1 155.2	
Henderson Spec Sits	111.8 171.3	
Royal Trust Capital	111.7 162.5	
First Growth	110.8 155.0	
Britannia Assets	110.7 140.1	
Perpetual Cap Growth	110.5 152.0	

Doxford faces small investors

Investors who are owed money by failed commodity broker, Mr. Doxford, would do well to attend the creditors meeting to be held at 11.30 am on Wednesday, December 16 at the Europa Hotel, London.

Doxford managed commodity accounts for private clients but on November 17 it was announced that it had ceased trading. On December 3 Paul Sheppard, of Coopers & Lybrand was put in as receiver by the fixed charge debenture holders. Wilson Smithett and Cope, a subsidiary of commodity traders Guinness Peat.

Following the appointment of the receiver, Doxford announced that it was going into voluntary liquidation, and Wednesday's creditors meeting will be asked to approve the appointment of George Anger, as liquidator. Senior insolvency partner of Stoy Hayward. But this appointment on behalf of the shareholders will not go unchallenged.

One of Doxford's larger private clients, a Mr

Bacharas who will be claiming losses running into six figures, intends to support the nomination of Christopher Morris of Touche Ross as liquidator to represent the investors.

Doxford owes Wilson Smithett and Cope an estimated £5.2m and this is secured against the firm's head office building at 10 St James Street, thought to be worth around £5m. Doxford has been trying unsuccessfully to sell the building and negotiations are taking place with potential buyers.

Some three months ago Wilson Smithett and Cope also took a floating charge on the rest of Doxford's assets, and will therefore have first call on any money realized on liquidation.

No one at Doxford is available for comment — there aren't any estimates of how much private investors are owed, but the creditors meeting may reveal more, over and above the value of the St James Street property, there might be left for investors.

Wilson Smithett and Cope are hopeful that sale of the property will cover its debts.

What is left is a rag-bag of companies, the value of which will determine how much the unsecured creditors are paid. It includes vintage cars valued at £57,000 in the 1979 accounts, the last to be filed.

Among the 17 subsidiary companies listed in the 1979 accounts, there are enterprises such as Limit Up, which is involved in garages, Compute-A-Load, Dial-A-Copy, Newspaper, none of which appears to be related to the commodity business. There are also three offshore companies, two based in Jersey and one in the Isle of Man.

It is thought that there may be a Swiss involvement, though this is not listed in the 1979 accounts, and Doxford also had an operation in Bahrain at one stage which dealt in commodities for Arab clients. Whoever is finally

appointed as liquidator, Doxford investors, as unsecured creditors, find themselves at the end of the queue.

Like the investors in Norton Warburg, the financial consultancy firm which collapsed in February of this year owing clients over £5m, Doxford investors who can identify their funds may be able to get their money back. It is possible, though, that Doxford did not separate clients' money from the company's funds and it is still not illegal to run a business in this way.

Hopefully this latest failure involving private investors will convince Professor T. Gower, who is conducting a full scale review of the current legislation on investors' protection, of the urgency of his task. Perhaps interim measures to outlaw the lumping together of clients' funds with those of the company could be produced fairly soon.

Lorna Bourke

Wine investment

The potential wrapped up in a bottle

Wine makes an ideal Christmas and New Year gift for the investor, friend, or relative or friend, if chosen for its potential, it should appreciate in price and be less readily available at its time of maturity than now.

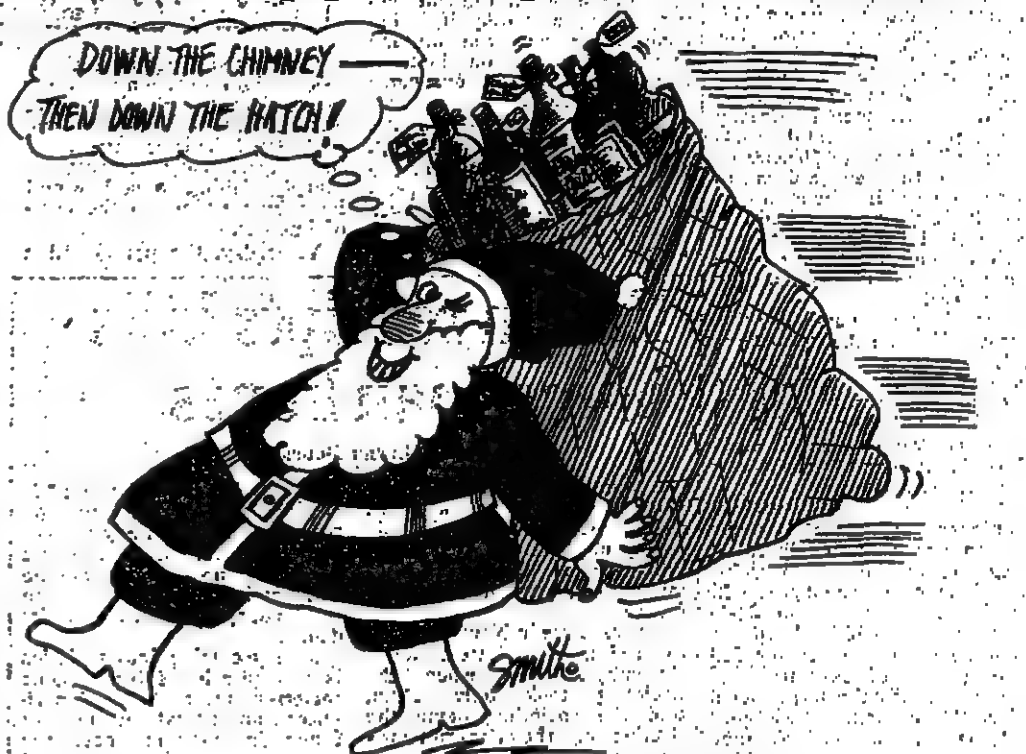
In claret terms, concentrate upon the outstanding years of 1975 and 1976, drinking the latter before the 1975 vintage. Most 1975 clarets show remarkable depth of colour with a complex nose and enough tannin to keep them developing for a decade or more. It was a small harvest and this is reflected in the prices. Corney & Barrow, and Christopher's have particularly good selections.

The 1976 vintage was more variable, not dissimilar to 1962. Petrus, La Mission Haut-Brion, Montrose, Ducru-Beaucallou and Léoville-Las Cases all have potential. Among those interesting from 1978 are Tanners of Shrewsbury and Dolamore (Oxford, Cambridge, Bakewell and London). The cachet of bottling at the chateau and of a classic growth will carry a substantial premium in the future.

An original idea for the wine enthusiast is to select a collection from a single estate. This could be several vintages of one property or different vintages from the same vineyard. Chateau Cailou makes the latter possible. The estate is 113.2 hectares (about 37 acres) near the village of Barsac which was granted second Cru status in the famous 1855 classification.

It yields a deliciously rich white (£4.75 for the 1978 vintage and £10 for the 1976 vintage excluding VAT) which is appealing both chilled as a summer drink, or warmed up and to accompany desert. It also makes a slightly earthy dry white (Domaine de Sarraut 1978 at £2.75) and a fruity red (Cru du Clocher) whose 1978 at £2.52 is good value. The 1979 vintage is available at an additional two or three pence. The range is available.

Many Rhônes are attractive



— stretching back to 1937 Barsac — from Wellesey House, Eton Park, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 0DG.

Red burgundy certainly becomes scarce as vintages reach maturity but prices are variable. It is worth taking good advice from a reputable merchant since the French market is full of cheap and overvalued production — only about a third of Bordeaux — leads to inconsistency.

Examine particularly the 1976 vintage, especially along the Côte de Beaune which will make good drinking over the next two years. The 1978 vintage shows style but is expensive, and 1979 will be enjoyable in two or four years.

Among those with appealing selections are Green's and Russell & McIvor (both of London, EC3). Houses of note include Chanton, Drouhin, Bouchard Père, Doublé, Nédin, Jadot, and Knapel.

Many Rhônes are attractive

but they are yet to realise high prices in the auction room. The depth of flavour of the 1976 and 1978 vintage justifies keeping bottles for up to another decade.

Corneil and Hermange, appeal in the northern Rhône and the single estate Châteaux, in the south. White sides of Chateau have a good selection.

In the fortified field, the old bottled sherries of Harvey's in Bristol can safely be enjoyed with pleasure as you open vintages by the fire or keep warm on a winter's day. Madeira, too, still underpinned by the Solera system, or Verdelho in the dry to medium dry field which will keep longer, once opened than almost any similarly dry wine. Ellis Son & Vidler of London offers a good Madeira range.

The 1966 port vintage is rapidly reaching maturity and is fruity with good balance. Fewer houses declared the 1967 and it needs

longer, probably six or more years. The quantity of 1970 suggests the price may fall still. For younger vintages, consider 1977 with a 20-25 year period to maturity, perhaps a Christmas gift for grandchildren.

Do not forget the Cruising Port, bottled by Mayor, Swarder (Duke Street Hill, London, SE1) which matures ahead of vintage port.

For the avid wine lover, consider Christie's Wine Companion (£3.50 plus postage and packing) and Michael Broadbent's *The Great Vintage Wine Book* (£5.95 basic price) (both from Christie's, London). Each provides a feast of reminiscence over past bottles. S.F. Martin's *Wine & Spirits* (£7.50) is a second revised edition. *Corkscrews for collectors* by Bernard Watney and Homer Babbidge (Society's, £12.95) would interest a wider audience than its title suggests.

Conal Gregory

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EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Capital gains tax trap for home owners

An Englishman's home is his castle, secure from even the taxman. Or so most people think. But, although freedom from capital gains tax on your home is regarded as the sacred right of every home owner, some people may still find themselves liable when they sell their home.

The Rev Gwyn Lewis, a retired vicar, got a shock earlier this year when the taxman claimed £5,700 from him after the sale of his half share of what was to be his retirement home. He inherited the house jointly with a relative more than 20 years ago. The property was leased to the council.

When ill health forced him to give up work earlier than expected, he found that he could not move in, so the joint owner bought his share to allow him to buy an alternative home immediately.

Mr Lewis says: "As a vicar, I have to live in decent accommodation, usually draughty vicarages. I didn't realise that I would be liable to tax on the one property I held for my eventual retirement."

Like most people who have to live above the shop, he is upset that he has been caught by rules really designed to stop speculators taking advantage of the general tax concessions given to home owners.

If he had been able to work on for a few more years he could have moved into the property and no tax would have been payable until it was sold, probably on the death of himself or his wife.

The rules seem harsh in individual cases, but there has been an important improvement. People who have to live in accommodation provided by employers now have CGT exemption on any other home for the period after July 1978, provided that they let the taxman of the arrangement. But this does not help Mr Lewis or others like him.

The bizarre sexism of the latter category has not escaped the attention of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Even worse, a married couple who could well have two dependants between them can claim only one such exemption. Once married they are a single tax unit.

Owners of weekend cottages as well as a main house have to pay capital gains tax on any periods throughout which you are away from home. But you can choose within two years of buying a second home which house you want to designate as your main residence for tax purposes. You can pick the weekend retreat if you want. But after two years the taxman will make his own mind up about which property is the main residence, if he is not told.

You can end up paying on capital gains tax on your only home if you are not careful. Many self-employed people fall into the trap of calling a room or two in their homes a work area and claiming a proportion of the running costs, such as light, rates and so on, against their tax. When they sell, they will find that they will have to pay capital gains tax on part of their profit.

According to the Inland Revenue, if you work every where in the house you can still claim some running costs as expenses without endangering your full CGT exemption.

Divorce may also mean a capital gains tax bill besides all the other problems it involves. If you move out of a home that is to be transferred to your former spouse you cannot have a CGT exemption on a new home at the same time.

Margaret Drummond

Rent rebates may be a help

Rent increases of around £2.50 a week for council house tenants will play havoc with tight budgets which are strained to breaking point by higher charges for rates, heating, lighting and telephones. On top of this, families where the breadwinner is fortunate enough to still have a job will have to pay out another £1 or so a week in increased national insurance contributions.

This is the time when a tenants' rent rebate from the council or from a private landlord, should check on rent rebates and allowances.

The actual rebates and the income levels below which you qualify have both been cut. If you are a family, you will be entitled to a rebate of £2.50 a week. If you are a single person, the income would be only £50.

Income is counted as your weekly pay (less £15.25 which is disregarded) plus a spouse's earnings (less a £5 disregard). Pensioners, sickness or unemployment benefits, child benefit, and interest on investments are all counted as income, though the earnings of children who are working are ignored.

Lorna Bourke

Benefits Pension deal suits mothers

If you are one of the many mothers staying at home to bring up your family or look after someone who is elderly or sick, you may be in line for the mysterious-sounding "home responsibilities protection". Indeed, you may even be getting it already.

Home responsibilities protection (or HRP for short) was introduced almost four years ago as a way of helping mothers who had to give up work to raise a family, or who took on the burden of looking after someone elderly or sick, to qualify for an old age pension of their own.

The arrangements cut the number of years in which you need to pay national insurance contributions to qualify for a retirement pension. In some cases, HRP is given automatically; in others you have to apply.

First of all, how does it work? In a nutshell, you must pay something like 40 years of the full rate of national insurance contributions before qualifying for a retirement pension.

However, under the HRP scheme, this can be cut to 20 years. What this means is that when the new arrangements have been in operation long enough, women will be able to work for 20 years, spend another 20 or so at home looking after a family, and still get a full pension at 60.

Men, too, can get HRP, but again there is no need to apply. This, too, applies to men.

Another point worth remembering is that under the new earnings related pension arrangements it takes 20 years for someone to qualify for a pension. So eventually it will be possible for a woman to get the ordinary pension (at present £27.15 a week; going up this month to £29.60) and full earnings related slice on top by paying contributions for only half the years it would take for someone who did not qualify for HRP.

How do you get HRP? The majority of those affected will be women with children. Anyone entitled to child benefit or to a pension under 16 qualifies automatically. There is no need to apply to the Department of Health and Social Security which runs the arrangements.

If you are in a "role-swapping" situation — you work while your husband stays at home with the children — he too can get this protection for his pension. But your child benefit will have to be paid to him officially, not you, and you will have to sign a statement that you do not wish to claim.

If you get HRP automatically, you also get collecting supplementary benefit while staying at home to look after

Bids dominate quiet session

The stockbroker belt must have seemed a million miles from the stock market yesterday as the shares hardened in the early hours of the session. Bids dominated the market, with the FT 100 index rising 1.5 points to 2,450.25. The market was quiet, with most activity concentrated in the early hours of the session.

Thomas Tilling has extended its bid for Berc, the 100% owned subsidiary of the company, to 100p. The bid was made on the basis of a 100% takeover, with the company offering 100p for each share of Berc. The bid was made on the basis of a 100% takeover, with the company offering 100p for each share of Berc.

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Stock markets

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Latest results

Company	Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
Admiral	100	1.75	0.10	5.7%
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Johnson & Firth halves loss

Johnson & Firth, the engineering and construction company, has reported a halving of its losses for the year ended September 30. The company's loss was £2.5m, compared with £5m in the previous year.

The company's revenue was £150m, compared with £140m in the previous year. The company's profit before tax was £1.5m, compared with £0.5m in the previous year.

Margins squeezed at Bishop's

A reduction in margins which led to a loss of £1.5m at Bishop's Group, the food wholesaler and retailer, has been blamed on over-reaction to competition.

The company's revenue was £150m, compared with £140m in the previous year. The company's profit before tax was £1.5m, compared with £0.5m in the previous year.

Outlook brighter at Baker Perkins

Baker Perkins Holdings, the machinery and engineering company, has reported a bright outlook for the year ahead. The company's revenue was £150m, compared with £140m in the previous year.

The company's profit before tax was £1.5m, compared with £0.5m in the previous year.

Tilling's offer for Berc is extended

Thomas Tilling has extended the limit for its takeover offer for Berc, the 100% owned subsidiary of the company, to 100p. The bid was made on the basis of a 100% takeover, with the company offering 100p for each share of Berc.

Utd Spring loss

With a full-year deficit, the United Spring and Steel Group is cutting its total dividend, gross, from 2.52p to 2.15p.

Powell Duffryn

Powell Duffryn has agreed to buy Allied Piping Products of Pennsylvania, for \$5.1m (£2.74m) cash. Allied is a privately owned manufacturer of pipe fittings and connections for the heating and ventilating, fire protection, process and petrochemical industries.

Richards holds payout

Aberdeen-based textile manufacturer Richards Ltd moved back into the black in the second half of the year to September 30, after the first half's loss. The group managed to make a pretax profit of £9,000 for the year, compared with £256,000 last time.

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14.5%
Barclays	14.5%
BCCI	14.5%
Consolidated Crds	15%
C. Hoare & Co	14.5%
Lloyds Bank	14.5%
Midland Bank	14.5%
Nat Westminster	14.5%
TSB	14.5%
Williams & Glyn's	14.5%

Wall Street

New York Dec 11 — Stocks turned lower in late trading after holding to modest declines. Most of the action was in takeover issues.

The Dow Jones Industrial average dropped 5.61 to 336.42, declining from 342.03.

Commodities

COPPER was steady — Afternoon — Higher grades, 200-250; lower grades, 150-200. The market was quiet, with most activity concentrated in the early hours of the session.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Company	Price	Change	Volume
116 100 ABI Hides 10% CULS	116	-10.0	8.6
75 39 Alpro Group	66	-4.7	7.1
52 21 Armitage & Rhodes	43	-4.3	10.0
200 524 Bardon Hill	193	-1.7	5.0
104 88 Deborah Services	88	-5.5	6.3
126 38 Frank Horsell	723	-5.4	5.2
110 39 Frederick Parker	64	+1.7	2.7
110 46 George Blair	46	-	-
102 49 IPC	46	-	-
113 59 Jackson Group	97	-7.0	7.2
130 103 James Burrough	113	-8.7	7.7
324 244 Robert Jenkins	263	-31.3	11.9
59 50 Scrutons "A"	54	-5.3	9.8
224 168 Torday & Carlisle	168	-10.7	6.4
23 8 Twinstock Ord	72	-	-
90 68 Twinstock 15% ULS	172	-15.0	20.8
52 22 Unilock Holdings	32	-1.0	4.4
103 77 Walter Alexander	77	-4.4	8.3
263 181 W. S. Yeates	212	-13.1	6.2

Your money market best buys

Bankers Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Midland 12% per cent, Lloyds 11% per cent, Barclays 12% per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the month, 13% per cent; 3 months, 14% per cent; 6 months, 15% per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds — SUDT 7-day fund, 14.39 per cent; SUDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15% per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.5 per cent; SUDT 1-month fund, 11.45 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from SUDT (0272-732241), UDI (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank — Ordinary account — interest 5 per cent. First £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 7.5 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £20,000.

National Savings index-linked certificates — Investment £5,000. Maximum return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index, 4 per cent plus inflation. Best offers: 1 year, Kingston

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DUPL

Coach and bus bodywork, G.P. compression mouldings, trailing machinery and precision engineering.

Year to 31st August

1981	1980
Turnover	20,340
Profit before tax	4,308
Retained profit	194
Earnings per share	5.42p
Dividends per share (actual)	2.90p

Turnover in Coachbuilding Division fell by 12.8% but new models have been introduced successfully. Plastics Division suffered from its close association with the automotive industry but alternative markets have been sought. Engineering Division completed rationalisation programme but found work scarce. Proposed final dividend of 1.5p to give total for the year of 2.9p per share. Order books are showing signs of improvement but prices are tight.

Duple International Limited, Veangate Lane, Blackpool, Lancs. FY4 4BN.

Cricket

England must concentrate on playing not umpiring

From Richard Streeton
Bangalore, Dec 8

England go into the second Test match here tomorrow firmly on the defensive, their crushing defeat at Bombay having completely changed the pattern of the six-game series with India could take England as planning to include an extra batsman in Gillingham and to risk playing four bowlers. One of them, Willis, is by no means certain of being fit because of a stomach upset.

India already won the initiative in a match that is expected to be played in perfect batting conditions. Willis in terms of speed and power is the most fearsome bowler on either side, but he has been ravaged by a form of diarrhoea for the past fortnight. It makes his penetrative bowling against South Zone last Friday all the more heroic. Willis has been put on antibiotics and although the drugs sometimes work, it is a type of treatment that tends to react in an unpredictable way. Willis is expected to be fit to play in the second Test.

Without Willis England lack their main striking force with the ball. He is the one bowler capable of harassing the Indian batsmen into fundamental errors. Lever would come into the England side ahead of Willis, but he is a batsman on the grounds of experience. Willis withdrew, Lever, in the cricketers' phrase, he sprayed the ball about on his appearances so far but his maturity and knowledge of the Indian batsmen are what outweigh Allott's better line.

England have chosen 12 players for the match with a final decision taken by the end of the night. The Willis-Lever issue might have a bearing on who is left out. Gillingham is included. Bowler, the most likely omission, although there is a school of thought that says Embury could be used. Underwood, if the wicket breaks up, is a later stage. Fletcher is known to have Underwood in the side and even a suggestion that if Willis is unfit, England would go into the game with a five-man bowling attack. Underwood, Gillingham, Embury, Gooch and Gearing. Fletcher, on the other hand, is a batsman and a bowler. He is a batsman and a bowler. He is a batsman and a bowler.

Gillingham has thoroughly earned his opportunity and there are those who would definitely play him ahead of Willis. Willis has been twice dropped by England.

during his Test career and in addition has come close to it on two occasions. To be fair to Gower, he does not have his own shortcomings as far as heavy scoring is concerned. The fact remains, though, that he continues to play too loosely outside the off stump and that at times his lack of footwork causes him to be out. Gillingham, with nothing like Gower's natural ability, has shown far more application on this tour with fewer chances. Gillingham was the main reason England strode through a shaky patch in the one-day international at Ahmedabad and with Fletcher at the controls, they won against South Zone in the second innings when momentum was theirs.

The England batting currently does not inspire confidence. They were routed by spin and seam in the first Test and proved incapable of attempting a feasible run chase in the last game at Hyderabad. They were also out of sync with assurance against South Zone to end his own lean spell but there were still moments when he was unable to play straight. Boycott, the most dedicated member of the party in his willingness to play, has been unable to hit the ball leaving him late. Tavara has become obsessed with the forward defensive stroke and has been in danger of becoming an exhibitionist. Fletcher is a batsman on the grounds of experience. Willis withdrew, Lever, in the cricketers' phrase, he sprayed the ball about on his appearances so far but his maturity and knowledge of the Indian batsmen are what outweigh Allott's better line.

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game. To a camp follower who is privileged to share the team's off-duty moments they have not succeeded. The facts remain that both teams have suffered umpiring mistakes and that the Indian umpires are not as good as the England players believe and that they are also not as good as the Indian board say.

An opinion expert, who justified in their official capacity as umpires in the first Test, although it was a strange that their presence was not put out of the way by the Indian board. The umpires are not as good as the England players believe and that they are also not as good as the Indian board say.

With Test players nowadays scrambling for every run and every wicket, it has placed enormous pressure on the umpires. Not least in India, where the crowd following every ball on the transistor radio and yelling at every delivery. If mistakes are made in the heat of the moment the players can only blame themselves. England's official complaint was rejected for lack of positive proof. It was effectively a face-saving exercise. The umpires are not as good as the England players believe and that they are also not as good as the Indian board say.

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Gillingham has thoroughly earned his opportunity

intersections and English street names are retained. Four-fifths of the stadium is now encircled by huge roofed stands and these cast shadows on the playing square in the final hour. However, England today rejected a suggestion that the starting time each day should be advanced by 15 minutes. Five years ago Greig's England side arrived 3-0 up in the series and were heavily beaten in a pitch that crumbled. There does not seem any likelihood of the pitch deteriorating this time, although the groundsmen forecast it would last a fortnight, today Fletcher thinks it might crumble after four days.

India's strategy full of confidence with their 1-0 lead behind them, although there is a strong likelihood that this game will be marked by a series of negative appeals with few decisions being made. This is only the sixth Test match played in Bangalore since the first in 1971 and three of them have been drawn. The 3,000 feet above sea level and a breeze helps alleviate the comparatively cool 85°F. This is the most pleasant city in the world visited with its tree-lined avenues and emerald green lawns and parks that are the most popular places in the city for British soldiers and airmen. Colin Cowdrey remains the most famous cricketer to have played in the city. He was a batsman and a bowler. He is a batsman and a bowler. He is a batsman and a bowler.

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Lever, preferred to Allott if Willis withdraws

Gower, K. V. Fletcher (captain), M. W. Gillingham, J. T. Borthwick, G. R. D. Hiley, J. E. Embury, R. W. Taylor, D. L. Underwood, R. G. D. Willis. Umpires: P. R. Farnham and M. V. Gonsky.

Racing

Plummer puts a price on the head of priceless National heritage

By Michael Seely

Lord Plummer, the chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, said last night that he could not accept the view of some commentators that the National must be saved, at any price, despite the position it occupied in our racing and national heritage.

Speaking at the Gimcrack dinner in York, he said that those who advocated the National should be "contributing to the very situation which we and the racing industry are trying to solve". He said: "I am not saying that the National is a price on the head of the National heritage, but it is a price on the head of the National heritage."

Lord Plummer then went on to add that the board would not be in a position to pay even a price of £100,000 for the National. He said: "I am not saying that the National is a price on the head of the National heritage, but it is a price on the head of the National heritage."

The chairman then said that if there was no increase in levy rates, the board would be in a position to pay even a price of £100,000 for the National. He said: "I am not saying that the National is a price on the head of the National heritage, but it is a price on the head of the National heritage."

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take from racing, relative to that which goes into the sport through the levy, outside that of any major racing country". The off-course betting duty is more than 11 times the price of the levy. Australia, for example, receives a return from betting of more than three and a half times that of off-course betting. The levy is a price on the head of the National heritage.

Reverting to the Grand National, the chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, said last night that he could not accept the view of some commentators that the National must be saved, at any price, despite the position it occupied in our racing and national heritage.

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The best price on offer against Henry Kissinger is the 6-1 with William Hill, who also offer 7-1 against Lesley Ann and 9-1 against Lesley Ann. The off-course betting duty is more than 11 times the price of the levy. Australia, for example, receives a return from betting of more than three and a half times that of off-course betting. The levy is a price on the head of the National heritage.

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Mancell lifts Tasmania

Bolton, Dec. 8.—The West Indians were made to struggle by Tasmania on the second day of their rain-hit three-day match today. The all-rounder, Peter Mancell, held up the touring team with a fighting half-century and the fast bowler, Franklyn Stephenson, took four wickets by using two quick wickets.

Tasmania, who scored 25 without loss in the 50 minutes play possible in rain, were dismissed for 204 and reduced the West Indians to 38 for three by the close.

Mancell, propped up the lower order by scoring 50 in 202 minutes in only his second first class match after Tasmania had jumped to 57-0 in the first innings. He was joined by Joel Garner and Harold Joseph did most of the damage with three wickets each.

Stephenson hit back for his adopted side when he held a return catch to dismiss Sachin Tendulkar.

Cup date not yet decided

Melbourne, Dec. 8.—The Australian Cricket Board said today that a new date for the Australia-Pakistan World Series Cup match at the Sydney Cricket Ground would not be set until later in the week. The one-day match, originally scheduled for today in the afternoon and night was postponed because of New South Wales power restrictions caused by a power cut in the Sydney area.

The NSW Government ruled that the power cut could not be used during the power cut. The match was postponed because of New South Wales power restrictions caused by a power cut in the Sydney area.

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Warnapura's first Test

Colombo, Dec. 8.—Bandula Warnapura, who captained the Sri Lanka team on their two-month tour of England earlier this year, will lead his country in its first Test, against the English next February.

Sri Lanka was admitted to the International Cricket Conference (ICC) last July and will play the first Test when England, now touring India, make a three-week visit in February.

The tour will open their tour with three one-day matches in Sri Lanka. The tour will open their tour with three one-day matches in Sri Lanka.

Why the Miss Rankin decision rankles

By John Hennessy
The figure skating committee of the National Skating Association has decided to award the 1982 world championship to Miss Rankin. The decision has caused a great deal of controversy and has led to a number of complaints.

Miss Rankin, a 17-year-old skater from the United States, won the world championship by a narrow margin. The decision has caused a great deal of controversy and has led to a number of complaints.

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For the record

American football
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Oakland Raiders 30, Pittsburgh Steelers 27.
AMERICAN CONFERENCE: Cincinnati Bengals 24, Cleveland Browns 17.
NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Dallas Cowboys 24, New York Giants 17.

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An appropriate appointment for a man of all the disciplines

Sir John set to make his mark
By Pamela Macgregor-Morris
It is particularly appropriate that Sir John, who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, should be a man of all the disciplines.

Sir John, who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, should be a man of all the disciplines. He has a long and distinguished career in the racing industry.

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Sport in brief

John McEneaney, of the United States, is expected to be the top seed at the 1982 British tennis championship, which will take place from March 6 to 14 at the National Tennis Centre, London.

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Law Report December 9 1981

No share for ex-mistress

Nourkey v Lusher

Before Mr Justice Wood

[Judgment delivered December 8]

The claim of a plaintiff who was intermittently over 10 years the mistress of the deceased for a share of the estate under the provisions of the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 failed in the Family Division. His Lordship held that the deceased had created himself a financial responsibility for his mistress and had left her shortly before his death. The defendant was the deceased's widow.

Mr Douglas Day for the plaintiff, Mr M P Picard for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the defendant and the deceased were married in 1939 and there were no children. After the deceased was demobilised in 1946 he took up a career as a chartered accountant. In 1951 the defendant joined her husband in the practice and worked as a secretary, receptionist and book-keeper until his death in 1979. At first she worked full time but eventually worked only three days a week.

In 1953 the freedom of the surgery and the two flats above it became available and that was bought in the defendant's name with her own savings and her dowry. In 1957 the deceased and the defendant bought a house in Forest Hill, London in their joint names, which remained the matrimonial home.

They had joint bank accounts, one private and one for the practice. The defendant collected all the bills, which were paid mainly by the deceased. The deceased was given the cash and the defendant received wages. Almost all the household and surgery bills were paid by the deceased. Sufficient moneys appeared in the accounts to meet outstanding bills and the defendant was content to let the deceased handle the cash to the deceased. If she needed anything she would ask.

Their marriage was a happy and contented one. The deceased was a man beloved of all his patients. He was not endowed with the strength of character and was common ground that he hated arguments and would "run a mile to avoid a confrontation".

In about 1963 the plaintiff attended the deceased for treatment and became friendly with him. From time to time thereafter the plaintiff visited him. The plaintiff was now aged 52 and was a naturalised British citizen of Israeli origin. In 1945 she married a fellow Israeli. The two sons both of whom were educated and lived in this country.

On Bank Holiday 1969 the deceased left the matrimonial home and went to live with the plaintiff in Sydneyham, London. He left his clothes and other belongings behind and those were kept and maintained by the defendant, against his possible return. The defendant called upon the plaintiff on two occasions to try to break up the relationship but failed.

The plaintiff's husband also visited this country with the same purpose and was equally unsuccessful. The plaintiff took divorce proceedings and the matrimonial home was granted on March 12, 1971. Although the defendant had failed to break up the relationship she clearly felt it could not last and settled down to maintain her position against his return.

She survived the initial shock controlled her heartache and realised that if the sole source of their income, namely the practice, was to continue, any scandal should be avoided or at least minimized. So she ensured that the rents from the flats above the surgery were paid direct to her and she persuaded the deceased to increase her wages.

The practice carried on as though nothing untoward had occurred. The deceased continued to pay all outgoings on the matrimonial home and the defendant wanted anything above her food and clothing the deceased would provide. They continued to live together and went their separate ways at the end of the day. At weekends the deceased would visit the matrimonial home and do the mowing and other heavy work which his wife could not do.

The deceased lived with the plaintiff in a flat and undoubtedly contributed towards her maintenance. He is said to have encouraged her to obtain her divorce but he made every effort to avoid divorcing his own wife. The first rift in the relationship arose in 1972 over a minor incident.

Thereafter the plaintiff visited France, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and returned in about April 1973. The deceased returned to the defendant early in February 1972 and rejoined the plaintiff in August 1973.

The rift which caused the rift in 1972 was a minor one and probabilities were that the relationship had deteriorated. In about 1963 the plaintiff attended the deceased for treatment and became friendly with him. From time to time thereafter the plaintiff visited him. The plaintiff was now aged 52 and was a naturalised British citizen of Israeli origin. In 1945 she married a fellow Israeli. The two sons both of whom were educated and lived in this country.

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November 25, 1977 it was declared that in the event of a sale the proceeds should be divided between them in the proportion of 52 per cent and 38 per cent. The plaintiff and her son were not satisfied with the property and continually pressed the deceased to move into something big.

In April 1977 and again in July 1979 the deceased asked the defendant to go on holiday with him. These were signs that he was desirous of divorcing himself of financial responsibility for the plaintiff. During their relationship the plaintiff had discussed his possible death with the deceased and he did not like making will.

After his return from holiday with the defendant in July 1975 the deceased never returned to the plaintiff. He made an excuse not to see her and she had no communication with him. The deceased died on August 7, 1979 and the plaintiff heard of it through an announcement in *The Daily Telegraph*.

In considering the plaintiff's claim, it was necessary to decide whether she was a person "who immediately before the death of the deceased was being maintained wholly or in part by the deceased". If so, did the statutory provisions relating to intestacy apply to her? While there was a general responsibility for her maintenance before July 1979, after his return from holiday with the defendant, the deceased had abandoned that responsibility.

The plaintiff was therefore not within the definition of section 1(1)(c) of the 1975 Act. It was also clear that the plaintiff would always be able to seek support from her sons. The deceased was both successful and if the deceased had not entered her life the likelihood was that by now she would be looking to them for support.

Taking into account all the circumstances and the relevant matters in section 3 of the 1975 Act, the plaintiff had not shown that the disposition of the deceased's estate by the law relating to intestacy was not such as to make reasonable financial provision for her.

Solicitor: Wood & Sons, Bromley; Chatterton & Co, Norwood.

sum thus went round the same circle as the money of December 12 but in the opposite direction. The effect was to eliminate the debt of the deceased to the plaintiff and to deduct in addition to the cost of acquiring the original shares the sum paid by way of subscription to the new shares.

The revenue contended that they were not because the new shares were acquired otherwise than by a bargain made at arms length. Burmah replied that the payment for the new shares was made as part of the reorganization of the capital of Holdings in the sense of the Finance Act 1965, section 139, paragraph 4(1) and that therefore there was no acquisition.

The commissioners and the court below both decided against Burmah. The House of Lords had no doubt they were right on the construction of the relevant statutes.

It was stated on behalf of Burmah that Revenue taxpayers had been provided with a preconceived and ready-made plan whereas in the present case the plan, although preconceived, was specially made for Burmah. But that difference could not affect the legal position.

It was clear the events of December 12 formed the basis of the scheme. No doubt the directors could have chosen, even at that stage, to abandon the scheme but the reality was that the directors had already been taken to carry it through to completion and that was unquestioned. The intention of the directors in this case just as it was the intention of all parties concerned in *Ramsay* and in *Wentworth* (see *Times* December 12, 1980; [1981] 2 WLR 449).

Burmah was at all material times the parent company of OMDR Holdings Ltd (Holdings), Manchester Oil Refinery Holdings Ltd (MORH) and Burmah Oil Trading Ltd (BOTL). Burmah owned 700,000 Holdings shares in its own name and one in the name of BOTL as their nominee. Holdings' share capital of 700,000 shares was represented by a debt of that amount owed by Holdings to Burmah.

In March 1969 Burmah transferred to Holdings a large amount of BP stock. In April 1971 that stock was transferred back to Burmah.

The market price of BP had fallen and there remained at the completion of that transaction an outstanding loan due by Holdings to Burmah of £159,299,999. As the two companies were members of the same group the transaction gave rise neither to chargeable gains nor to allowable losses.

Burmah explored with counsel the possibility of obtaining for corporation tax purposes an allowable loss that transaction in the account of the situation which had arisen on the reorganisation. The events which followed were carried out in accordance with a scheme approved by Burmah's directors, to achieve that end.

On December 12, 1972 MORH obtained from Burmah a loan of £159,299,999, the exact amount of the debt owed by Holdings to Burmah. MORH then lent that amount to Holdings which in turn repaid the debt to Burmah. The money thus went round in a small circle, and returned to its starting point on the same day. The effect was that instead of Burmah being a direct creditor of Holdings, MORH were interposed as creditor of Holdings and debtor of Burmah.

On December 18, Holdings made a rights issue to its existing shareholders. Burmah was allotted 700,000 shares for which it paid £159,299,999 and BOTL one share for £28. Holdings repaid to MORH the loan of £159,299,999 and MORH repaid that amount to Burmah. That

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It was stated on behalf of Burmah that Revenue taxpayers had been provided with a preconceived and ready-made plan whereas in the present case the plan, although preconceived, was specially made for Burmah. But that difference could not affect the legal position.

It was clear the events of December 12 formed the basis of the scheme. No doubt the directors could have chosen, even at that stage, to abandon the scheme but the reality was that the directors had already been taken to carry it through to completion and that was unquestioned. The intention of the directors in this case just as it was the intention of all parties concerned in *Ramsay* and in *Wentworth* (see *Times* December 12, 1980; [1981] 2 WLR 449).

Burmah was at all material times the parent company of OMDR Holdings Ltd (Holdings), Manchester Oil Refinery Holdings Ltd (MORH) and Burmah Oil Trading Ltd (BOTL). Burmah owned 700,000 Holdings shares in its own name and one in the name of BOTL as their nominee. Holdings' share capital of 700,000 shares was represented by a debt of that amount owed by Holdings to Burmah.

In March 1969 Burmah transferred to Holdings a large amount of BP stock. In April 1971 that stock was transferred back to Burmah.

The market price of BP had fallen and there remained at the completion of that transaction an outstanding loan due by Holdings to Burmah of £159,299,999. As the two companies were members of the same group the transaction gave rise neither to chargeable gains nor to allowable losses.

Burmah explored with counsel the possibility of obtaining for corporation tax purposes an allowable loss that transaction in the account of the situation which had arisen on the reorganisation. The events which followed were carried out in accordance with a scheme approved by Burmah's directors, to achieve that end.

La crème de la crème

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